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FBIS-SOV-93-041 CONTENTS *4 March 1993*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

ARMS CONTROL & DISARMAMENT

Maintenance, Safety of Ukraine Nuclear Missiles Viewed *[Moscow International]* 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Shaposhnikov Receives Danish Defense Minister *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
Germany To Give Military Training, Equipment to Baltics *[Berlin ADN]* 2

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Commander Discusses Future of Baltic Fleet *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 2 Mar]* 3
CIS Ministers of Internal Affairs Meet in Minsk *[Minsk Radio]* 4
    Combating Crime on Agenda *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Belarusian Official Comments at Surgut Oil Summit *[Minsk TV]* 5
CIS Experts Discuss Consultation Committee Statute *[Minsk Radio]* 5
    Fail To Adopt Draft *[Minsk Radio]* 5
Central Asian Leaders Discuss Unemployment *[Alma-Ata Radio]* 5
Single Information Area Rejected by Ukraine, Baltics *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 25 Feb]* 6
ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 4 Mar 6

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Talks on Venue for Yeltsin-Clinton Meeting Continue *[ITAR-TASS]* 8
Clinton, Christopher Back Russian Democracy *[IZVESTIYA 2 Mar]* 8
Kozyrev Comments on Talks With Christopher *[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI 7 Mar]* 9
Commentary on Missile Technology Export Controls *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 3 Mar]* 10
Security Accord With Ukraine To Fight Terrorism *[Moscow TV]* 11
Grachev: No Breakthrough in Arms Talks With Ukraine *[ITAR-TASS]* 11
Ukrainian Ambassador Interviewed on Relations *[PRAVDA 2 Mar]* 11
Army Paper Criticizes Ukraine's Stance on Croatia *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 3 Mar]* 12
Germany's Kohl Stops in Moscow To Meet With Yeltsin *[INTERFAX]* 13
    Supports Reform Efforts *[INTERFAX]* 13
    Praises Yeltsin *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Official Presents Peacekeeping Operations Document at UN *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Moscow Plans 'Symbolic' Participation in Bosnian Airdrop *[IZVESTIYA 4 Mar]* 14
Russia Offers To Build 'Floating' Nuclear Plants in Israel *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
PLO Member on U.S. Role in Middle East Peace *[INTERFAX]* 15
Kozyrev Postpones Iran, Pakistan Visit To Attend Congress *[INTERFAX]* 15
    To Tour Asian Countries in Late March *[ITAR-TASS]* 15
Yeltsin, Finnish President Begin Summit in Kremlin *[ITAR-TASS]* 15
    Summit Ends *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
Finnish Defense Visitors Receive 'Cold Reception' *[Helsinki Radio]* 16
Rutskoy Makes Brief Visit to Indonesia *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
    Arrives in New Zealand *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Malaysia Shows Interest in Buying Russian MiG's *[IZVESTIYA 3 Mar]* 17
Turkish Foreign Minister Explains Stand on Bosnia *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 3 Mar]* 17
DPRK Denounces IAEA Inspection Plans *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
Afghan Minister Confirms Readiness To Release POW's *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
Border Demarcation With PRC Could Take Five Years *[Moscow International]* 18

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

Yeltsin Address to Women Highlights 'Difficult' Times *[Moscow Radio]* 19
    Warns of Danger of 'Political Chaos' *[INTERFAX]* 19

More on Security Meeting; Grachev Denies Coup Preparation *[IZVESTIYA 4 Mar]* 20
Further Grachev Remarks *[INTERFAX]* 21
Army Chiefs Urge 'Resolute Measures' *[Russian TV]* 21
More on Grachev's 2 Mar Press Conference *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 4 Mar]* 22
Yeltsin Warns Congress Against 'Treason' *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 3 Mar]* 23
Yeltsin Official Says Congress Cannot Cancel Referendum *[ITAR-TASS]* 25
Rutskoy's Plan To Overcome Constitutional Crisis Outlined *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 3 Mar]* 25
Official Says New Constitution May End Crisis *[ITAR-TASS]* 26
Shakhray Views Chances for Referendum *[Radio Rossii]* 26
Stankevich Outlines Yeltsin's 'Battle Plan' *[THE MOSCOW TIMES 1 Mar]* 26
Yeltsin's Overture to Civic Union First Sign of New Strategy *[IZVESTIYA 2 Mar]* 27
Renewal Union's First Congress Reported *[KURANTY 2 Feb]* 28
Yeltsin Creates Federation, Nationality Affairs Committee *[Moscow Radio]* 29
Yeltsin Appoints Filippov to New Analytical Center *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 3 Mar]* 30
Appoints Malyshev to Center *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 3 Mar]* 30

Economic Issues

Government Presidium Discusses Privatization Issues *[Russian TV]* 30
Arms Export Official on Weapons Exports *[INTERFAX]* 31
Government To Retain Control of Privatized Oil Industry *[INTERFAX]* 32
Government To Discuss Citizens' Rights During Privatization *[INTERFAX]* 33
Government To 'Take Action' Against Central Bank Policies *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 2 Mar]* ... 33

Supreme Soviet

Kozhokin Says President May Not Disband Parliament *[INTERFAX]* 33
Parliament Invites Yeltsin to 5 Mar Session *[INTERFAX]* 34
Khasbulatov Says Parliament Controls Army *[Moscow TV]* 34
Ryabov Wants Congress To Cancel Referendum *[INTERFAX]* 34
Khasbulatov Arrives in Helsinki 1 Mar *[ITAR-TASS]* 35
Attends Nordic Council Meeting *[ITAR-TASS]* 35
Urges Yeltsin To Abide by Constitution *[Russian TV]* 36
Further on Nordic Council Meeting *[Vilnius Radio]* 36
Khasbulatov Comments on 3 Mar Meeting With Yeltsin *[INTERFAX]* 36
Parliament Refuses Request To Discuss Yeltsin 'Disrespect' *[ITAR-TASS]* 37
Procurator General Urges Legal Reform *[ITAR-TASS]* 37
Draft Law on Freedom of Demonstrations Rejected *[Moscow TV]* 37
Bill on Jury Trial Approved in First Reading *[INTERFAX]* 38
Soviet of Nationalities, Republic Hold Separate Sittings *[Russian TV]* 38
Supreme Soviet Spring Field Work Directive *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 2 Mar]* 38

Regional Affairs

Groznyy Claims Russian Services Kill 2 Chechens in London *[INTERFAX]* 39
Two Suspects Arrested *[ITAR-TASS]* 39
Chechen President Vetoes Resolution on Referendum *[INTERFAX]* 40
Parliament Asks Court To Scrutinize Veto *[INTERFAX]* 40
Tatarstan Develops Draft Declaration on Neutrality *[INTERFAX]* 40
Tatarstan Prime Minister Discusses Production *[ITAR-TASS]* 40
Talks on Ingush-Ossetian Settlement Continue *[ITAR-TASS]* 41
N. Ossetia 'Probably' To Recognize S. Ossetia Independence *[INTERFAX]* 41
Yeltsin Signs Decree on Aid for Gorno-Altay Republic *[Moscow Radio]* 41
Shakhray Addresses Volga, Urals Forum *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 2 Mar]* 41
North Development Program To Be Submitted 8 Apr *[INTERFAX]* 42

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Ministry Clarifies Position on Russian 'Special Powers' *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 3 Mar]* 43
Yeltsin Remarks Likened to Kozyrev Speech *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 3 Mar]* 43
Chornovil Attacks 'Imperial Ambitions' *[Kiev International]* 43
Prime Minister Accuses Russia of Continuing Cold War *[INTERFAX]* 43

- No Agreement With Russia on Fuel Prices, Debt Repayment *[ITAR-TASS]* 44
  - Bank Chairman Cited *[Radio Rossii]* 44
- Russian Moves on Status of Crimea Assailed *[UKRINFORM]* 44
- Foreign Minister Comments on Relations With Serbia *[INTERFAX]* 45
- Prime Minister Comments on Results of Surgut Conference *[INTERFAX]* 45
- Talks Held With Belarus on Formulating Border Issues *[URYADOVYY KURYER 2 Mar]* 45
- Allegations of Posts on Belarus Border 'Refuted' *[Kiev International]* 45
- Official Delegation's Consultations With NATO Viewed *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 26 Feb]* 46
  - Tarasyuk Reports Visit *[Kiev International]* 46
- Report on Press Conference by Crimean Parliament Speaker *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 3 Mar]* 46
- Ministry Creates Fund for Developing Diplomatic Network *[URYADOVYY KURYER 25 Feb]* 47
- Officials Reach Agreement With Hungary on Border Transfer *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 26 Feb]* 47
- Officers' Transfer From Russia Allegedly Hampered *[URYADOVYY KURYER 2 Mar]* 48
- Organization of Romanian Ethnic Minority Set Up *[Bucharest ROMPRES]* 48
- Turkish Envoy Meets With Crimean Turkish Community *[INTERFAX]* 48

National Affairs

- Cabinet Bans Sale of Gasoline for Private Cars *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 2 Mar]* 48
- Parliament To Discuss START I Treaty in Mid-March *[INTERFAX]* 49
- Working Group Discusses START, Nuclear Nonproliferation *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 26 Feb]* 49
- Supreme Council Plenary Meeting Ends *[Kiev International]* 49
- Parliament Discusses Measures To Stabilize Economy *[INTERFAX]* 49
- First Signs of 'Possible Stabilization' Appear *[Kiev International]* 50
- Security Officers in Lvov Dissatisfied With Superiors *[MOLOD UKRAYINY 26 Feb]* 50
- Group To Work on Crimea Becoming Free Economic Zone *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 26 Feb]* 50
- Commentary Ridicules Activity of National Assembly *[DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA 25 Feb]* 51
- Justice Party Publishes Views on Nuclear Disarmament *[MOLOD UKRAYINY 26 Feb]* 51
- Kravchuk Issues Directive on Means of Self-Defense *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 25 Feb]* 51
- Investigators Appeal to Lawyers To End Strike *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 26 Feb]* 52

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

- Shushkevich: Nuclear Energy Needed for Development *[INTERFAX]* 53
- Foreign Minister on Policy Prospects, Future Ties *[ITAR-TASS]* 53
  - Comments on Future EEC Structure *[Minsk Radio]* 53
- Defense Minister Suggests Army Not Participate in Politics *[BELINFORM]* 54
- Kravchanka, Malescanu on Prospects for Bilateral Relations *[Minsk TV]* 54
- Plans To Guard Borders With Baltic States Viewed *[Radio Rossii]* 54

Moldova

- Snegur Receives Romanian Intelligence Head Magureanu *[Bucharest ROMPRES]* 54
- 'Energy War' With Russia Having 'Disruptive Impact' *[BASAPRESS]* 55

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

- Responsibilities of Leaders Further Defined *[KAZTAG]* 56
- Border Troop Cooperation Agreement Signed With Russia *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 3 Mar]* 56
- Trade, Economic Cooperation Discused With German Officials *[Alma-Ata Radio]* 57

Kyrgyzstan

- Parties Criticize Decision To Replace Cabinet of Ministers *[INTERFAX]* 57
- Article Views Economic, Political Problems *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 2 Mar]* 57

Tajikistan

- CIS Troops Arrive To Strengthen Border; Others Expected *[ITAR-TASS]* 58
  - Commander Cited on Reinforcements *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 4 Mar]* 58
- Two Russian Ministry Employees Killed in Tursunzade *[INTERFAX]* 59

'Warring Factions' Begin Negotiations *[ITAR-TASS]* 59
Supreme Soviet Presidium Appeals to Gorno-Badakhshan Oblast *[Dushanbe Radio]* 59
Government Forces Put on Alert in Dushanbe *[ITAR-TASS]* 59
Russian Security Spokesman on Role of Border Troops *[INTERFAX]* 60
Deputy Interior Minister Grants Interview *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 26 Feb]* 60
Russian Community Leader Says Situation 'Humiliating' *[INTERFAX]* 61

Turkmenistan

Government Explains Absence From Surgut Oil Conference *[INTERFAX]* 62
Government Supports Russia in Gas Dispute With Ukraine *[INTERFAX]* 62

Uzbekistan

Foreign Economic Relation Enterprises Re-Registered *[UZBEKISTAN APN]* 62

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Ter-Petrosyan Against Parliamentary Form of Government *[INTERFAX]* 63
    Spokesman Criticizes Opposition Maneuvers *[INTERFAX]* 63
Control of Sarsang Dam Claimed Despite 'Propaganda' *[Yerevan International]* 63
Prime Minister Offers Protection of Pipeline in Georgia *[Yerevan International]* 64
Karabakh Defense Committee Opens Mission in Yerevan *[Yerevan International]* 64
Ter-Petrosyan To Visit France, Sign Bilateral Accords *[INTERFAX]* 64

Azerbaijan

Assembly Decides on Amnesty for Some Convicts *[Baku Radio]* 64
Akhmedov, Chernomyrdin Discuss CIS Participation *[ASSA-IRADA]* 64
Clashes in Fizulinskiy, Agderinskiy Rayons *[Baku Radio]* 65

Georgia

Shevardnadze Links Country's, Russia's 'Disintegration' *[CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY]* 65
Shevardnadze Discusses Conflict on Abkhazia Visit 65
    Receives Letter From Russian Cossacks *[ITAR-TASS]* 65
    Says Additional Troops Present *[Moscow TV]* 65
    Meets Abkhazia's Nadareishvili *[Tbilisi Radio]* 66
    Denies Resignation, Wants Wider Martial Law *[INTERFAX]* 66
Ardzinba Urges Release of Deputy Prime Minister *[ITAR-TASS]* 66
Agreement Reached With Russia To Obtain Oil *[INTERFAX]* 66
Liberation Movement Conference Rallies Opposition *[7 DGHE 25 Feb]* 67

Maintenance, Safety of Ukraine Nuclear Missiles Viewed

LD0203175693 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1210 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] According to the main headquarters of the Strategic Missile Forces here, at some launching pads for SS-24 missiles in Ukraine, the maintenance work by plan has been missed by eight to 10 months. Besides that, cases have been spotted when safety is not ensured for storage of nuclear warheads. The situation is analyzed by military affairs observer Mikhail Umanov. This is what he writes.

Experts directly link this state of affairs with the resubordination of the Strategic Missile Forces in Ukraine to the country's military. Moscow retains the operational control over nuclear missiles there. This was reaffirmed a few days ago by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev. He said the control of the nuclear weapons is concentrated in Moscow. As for Ukraine, it has pledged to service the nuclear weapons fully—a total of 176 strategic missiles—and to pay all the expenses for their maintenance. That is up to the moment when the issue is solved finally which country the missiles belong to. [sentence as heard] By the way, at prices of 1992, this required at least 200 million rubles a year, but as it can be seen in practical terms, actually nothing has come of it.

The disturbing situation has been stated not only by missile specialists but also by the commander in chief of the Commonwealth Armed Forces, Marshall Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov. But then the technical complications that have appeared are being eliminated, although with some difficulty. According to the deputy commander in chief of the Strategic Missile Forces for maintenance of the missiles, Major General Vladimir Nikitin, after long talks with the Ukrainian Defense Ministry, it has become possible to partly restore the essential technical supervision. Several million rubles have been set aside and as much as possible special material, which is in short supply, has been provided by Russian missile men for the most vital work.

All that is important but insufficient in my opinion, writes Mikhail Umanov. The problem can be solved fully only in a political way. Russia and the chief command of the CIS Unified Armed Forces have been long pressing directly to make the nuclear missiles in Ukraine belong to a concrete country. It looks logical that the country should be Russia, at least due to the fact that 40 percent of the nuclear arms service facilities are stationed in Russia.

Whatever the case, it is of principal importance that supervision and financing of the missile forces be single. Someone alone should be responsible for the safety of nuclear missile forces. To achieve such a situation, political will is needed above all.

Shaposhnikov Receives Danish Defense Minister

LD0203102693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1003 GMT 2 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Roman Zadunaiskiy]

[Text] Moscow 2 TASS—The commander-in-chief of the Commonwealth allied armed forces, Aviation Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, met with the Danish minister of defence, Hans Haekkerup on Tuesday morning [2 March] in the building of the Supreme Commandment of the Allied Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States in Moscow.

The Danish defence minister is in Russia on an official visit at the invitation of the Russian minister of defence, Army General Pavel Grachev.

The commonwealth commander-in-chief and the Danish defence minister are discussing cooperation in the military field between the supreme commandment of the allied armed forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Danish Ministry of Defence.

During his first visit to Russia, which will last until March 6, Danish Defence Minister Hans Haekkerup will also meet with the commanders of the Northern and Baltic Fleets and the commander of the armed forces in the Leningrad Military District.

Germany To Give Military Training, Equipment to Baltics

LD2702051093 Berlin ADN in German 1943 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] Vilnius (ADN)—Germany intends to train Lithuanian servicemen in Germany. Bernd Wilz, parliamentary state secretary at the Federal Defense Ministry, told the press in Vilnius today that he had put proposals to this effect to the Lithuanian side. According to him, officers and noncommissioned officers from the Baltic republic could broaden their knowledge at military educational establishments in Germany.

Wilz has met leading politicians in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania in the past few days. According to him, the Baltic states will receive equipment and military hardware from the stocks of the former NVA [National People's Army of former GDR] free of charge. This includes, among other things, L-410-type transport planes, coastal defense vessels, trucks, and clothing. Two planes and four vessels are to be handed over to Lithuania.

Commander Discusses Future of Baltic Fleet

PM0403130393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Mar 93 p 2

[Interview with Admiral Vladimir Yegorov, commander of the Baltic Fleet, by Captain Second Rank Valeriy Gromak, in Kaliningrad; date not given: "The Fleet Will Remain a Fleet Nonetheless"]

[Text] Kaliningrad—[Gromak] You will agree, Vladimir Grigoryevich, that conditions were difficult for the Baltic Fleet last year. This year is not going to be any better either. The fleet has begun to withdraw its forces from the Baltic states. This is a most complex problem and I would like to begin our conversation with that point...

[Yegorov] Yes, the most complex question today is the redeployment of the fleet's forces from the Baltic countries. As a child during the war I was a refugee and was evacuated. Therefore I understand each family's problems very well. This is the same kind of evacuation now, too, but it is aggravated by processes occurring because of the disintegration of the unified state.

[Gromak] Incidentally, the Kaliningrad correspondents' center often hears from fleet veterans. Their views on this problem are far from diplomatically expressed. They often ask: "What are the feelings of the Baltic Fleet people as they leave the bases created by the blood and sweat of several generations of sailors?"

[Yegorov] I am expressing my personal opinion as a sailor who has served a long time in the Baltic. I find it offensive that we are losing our base stations, that we are losing what are in fact our best naval bases in the Baltic. Bases where our fixed assets are concentrated.

Traditionally we used to say that the fleet's main base is Baltiysk. But if you calculate the material resources that have been invested in the bases, Baltiysk is in last position. This may come as a surprise but it is actually true. This creates a very complex problem. It is expedient to withdraw the fleet's forces from Tallinn, Liepaja, and Riga only after extensive work has been done to upgrade Baltiysk with a mooring and with engineering facilities for housing construction. It is no secret to anyone that in addition to the best equipment at the base stations we are also losing some of the best housing stock in the Baltic. That is why, of course, this withdrawal gives me a sense of bitterness that a priceless asset created by many generations of people is being lost... But that is the reality.

Housing alone for the units that are being withdrawn will cost us 987 million rubles [R] at 1991 prices. For housing alone.

The situation regarding the basing of ships at Baltiysk is becoming very tense. Especially since the fleet's main base has accepted a brigade of maritime border troops.

[Gromak] Do you have a clear idea about what is going to happen to the Liepaja, Tallinn, and Riga naval bases and the fleet's enterprises?

[Yegorov] Even the state structures of the Baltic states are unclear on that one. The most far-sighted policy in my view is being pursued by the Lithuanian state. That country's leaders have suggested to the Russian authorities that joint ventures be set up on the basis of the Russian Armed Forces' enterprises in the republic.

I also know that some of our facilities in Latvia are being transferred to that state's ownership. We are ready to transfer half the assets of the radio-technical school in Liepaja to the Latvian side where a national guard subunit will be stationed. But I repeat that right now there is no complete clarity. For example, not even everyone knows that the port of Liepaja and the ship repair yard were built on land bought by Russia from Latvian landowners in the last century.

[Gromak] Will the fleet have to build housing for its seamen by itself?

[Yegorov] Relations with the Lithuanian leadership are developing in a most rational way here, too. I was the first foreigner to be received by the new prime minister, B. Lubys, the day after he entered office.

For example, he helped resolve all the questions pertaining to the stationing of the guard's coastal protection division in Klaipeda. The Lithuanian side also allowed our servicemen to own their own apartments. If Latvia and Estonia were to do likewise that would suffice to resolve many of the problems faced by our seamen and their families. But that has not happened...

Incidentally, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has talked in detail about the Lithuanian association "Selma," which has undertaken to build housing for servicemen in Kaliningrad. The association is being given assistance at government level and we expect that the existing plans will be implemented. So the Lithuanian side has the right approach to the most vital question for the fleet—housing. Latvia and Estonia are not building anything at the moment for the fleet forces which are being withdrawn and I do not think that they are going to.

[Gromak] But officers need somewhere to live...

[Yegorov] "Selma" is building a residential district in Kaliningrad. That is not all. Last year 17 apartment blocks containing 950 apartments and seven hostels with room for 420 people were commissioned in the fleet. Three apartment blocks have been built specifically for officers, warrant officers, and ensigns from the Baltic region. The fleet has also acquired 102 apartments in Russian cities and has received 6 apartments under a shared-ownership scheme. All these apartments have been allocated to those people now serving in the Baltic.

It is planned to commission a 108-apartment block in Baltiysk in the first quarter of this year for a missile patrol boat brigade that has been withdrawn from

Poland. In total this year we are to receive 1,001 apartments in Kaliningrad Oblast.

In addition, this year the Baltic Fleet has been allocated R14,118,000 for the joint construction of 265 apartments and the purchase of 60 apartments on Russian territory. The fleet has concluded contracts for joint participation in the construction of 120 apartments in Kaliningrad Oblast, 209 apartments in Leningrad Oblast, 103 apartments in Novgorod Oblast, 392 apartments in Pskov Oblast, and 61 apartments in Smolensk Oblast. In addition, contracts have been concluded with organizations from other ministries for the construction of housing and engineering facilities for the troops who are being withdrawn. No matter how difficult it is, the housing construction program can be resolved.

[Gromak] What is your prediction for the development of the navies of the Baltic countries?

[Yegorov] Undoubtedly each of the Baltic states will have its own navy.

The Estonian leadership has asked to buy individual ships from the Baltic Fleet. Latvia is also showing a definite interest in this question. We have conveyed our thoughts to the Navy Main Staff. It is clear that the Baltic countries' fleets will be small but effective enough to resolve the tasks of protecting their maritime borders without being a burden on the budget. We would like close cooperation among all the fleets on questions of exchanging information on navigational and hydrographic support and on hazards at sea. We must work together to resolve such important tasks as safety at sea and rescue operations in accordance with international treaties, conserving the sea's resources, and preventing the deterioration of the environment in the Baltic.

[Gromak] We have not completed the discussions on the ship repair yards. But the majority of them are in the Baltic...

[Yegorov] Recently, J. Cinzietis, director of the No. 177 ship repair yard in Riga, came to see me. He said with great sadness that the collective is on its last legs. Workers and employees have not received any wages for several months now. We are particularly worried about the fate of the diesel repair shop—the only one in the entire region.

Some 97 percent of the people working at the navy ship repair yards in the Baltic countries work are Russian-speaking members of the population. The excessive delay over resolving the fate of the yards is affecting people's lives, too. But nevertheless, at the No. 177 yard we are repairing ships and looking for the means to finance work. Were the questions pertaining to the creation of joint ventures at the ship repair yards in Liepaja, Riga, and Tallinn resolved legally today, it would be possible to provide complete clarity on questions of their finance and ship repair plans.

[Gromak] Yes, Vladimir Grigoryevich, this is a depressing picture. But what is going to happen to the fleet itself? Are you destined to be the last commander of Russia's oldest fleet?

[Yegorov] I do not think there are any grounds for that conclusion. At a meeting with the command and representatives of the officers' assemblies of the fleet on 23 December, Army General P. Grachev, Russian defense minister, stated firmly: "The Baltic Fleet will continue to exist." The fleet will be based in Kaliningrad and Leningrad Oblasts.

Incidentally, on 21 January I presented a plan for the redeployment of the fleet's forces to Admiral F. Gromov, commander in chief of the Russian Navy. In all, hundreds of subunits and units are are to be withdrawn from the Baltic countries.

But the fleet remains a normal combat-ready structure with two naval bases—at Baltiysk and Kronshtadt—with all the relevant organs that those formations would have. This year a brigade of missile-carrying submarines will be withdrawn from the effective strength—they have all completed their allotted period of service. We are beginning to transfer the remaining submarines from the Baltic countries to Leningrad Oblast this year.

Numerically the fleet will be reduced by 39 percent.

[Gromak] Now tell us about the management of the fleet...

[Yegorov] The fleet's organs of management will remain in Kaliningrad Oblast. To organize the stable management of the fleet in the future a plan will be devised to upgrade the fleet's communications facilities. Initially, of course, while the bases are in Baltiysk and Kronshtadt there will be certain difficulties, but according to our calculations the management will be stable and reliable.

There will also be certain problems with the organization of combat training. For example, for winter basing some of the submarine crews will have to be transferred to Baltiysk. True, we have experience of that kind of thing. We are forced to carry out combat training outside the territorial waters of the Baltic states and they have set a 12-mile limit there...

[Gromak] As I understand it, your main task...

[Yegorov] ...is to survive and preserve a combat-ready fleet.

CIS Ministers of Internal Affairs Meet in Minsk

WS0303145593 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1300 3 Mar GMT 93

[Text] A conference of CIS ministers of internal affairs will be held in Minsk on 4 March, the holiday of the Belarusian Militia. The BELINFORM correspondent was told at the Belarusian Ministry of Internal Affairs, that the invitation by Belarusian Minister Vladimir

Yegorov was accepted by all his CIS partners. Joint measures on combating organized crime will be the main issue of the conference.

Combating Crime on Agenda

LD0403113093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0923 GMT 4 Mar 93

[By BELINFORM correspondent Aleksandr Limanovskiy—TASS]

[Text] Minsk, 4 Mar—A conference of internal affairs ministers of the CIS countries opened in Minsk today. On the agenda is discussion of a draft program of joint measures to combat organized crime and other forms of dangerous crime on the territory of the Commonwealth countries.

The draft of this program was recently drawn up by experts. In Minsk, ministers will now have to make the necessary additions and voice their final opinion of the document. The program's adoption is expected at the next meeting of CIS heads of state.

The BELINFORM correspondent learned from the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus that foreign ministers of 10 countries are taking part in the conference: Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Ukraine.

Belarusian Official Comments at Surgut Oil Summit

WS0403115593 Minsk Belaruskaje Television Network in Belarusian 0600 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] The transition to world prices in clearing operations among the CIS members has resulted in a rise in the price of energy resources. The destruction of old economic ties among the former USSR republics has caused a deep economic slump. Is there a way out? Yes, we need the former USSR economic integration. This is the conclusion of the Surgut meeting.

Besides the CIS leaders, the representatives of Lithuania and Estonia participated in the Surgut meeting. The participants have issued a joint communique which sums up the results of the discussion devoted to the issues of oil and gas supply. These questions were the subject of the press conference which was held on 3 March in the Government House in Minsk. Mikhail Vladimirovich Myasnikovich, first deputy chairman of the Presidium of the Belarusian Cabinet of Ministers, opened the press conference and said:

[Begin Myasnikovich recording] I must say that currently I should not speak about those difficulties that our economy is experiencing in connection with the lack of energy resources, first and foremost oil products. It tells negatively on the volume of production, especially in our chemical industry complex, which uses the oil processed products as raw materials. All the remaining branches of our industry are also experiencing a serious lack of energy resources, such as gasoline and diesel fuel. These problems are common not only for the CIS countries but also for all the former members of the USSR. [end recording]

In general, the speakers at the press conference stressed that it was necessary to develop new technologies and look for sources of new energy resources, to carry out the necessary measures to upgrade the power complexes in Belarus.

CIS Experts Discuss Consultation Committee Statute

WS0203145093 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1300 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Report attributed to RIA]

[Text] A group of CIS plenipotentiary state representatives started finishing off the draft statute of the CIS coordination and consultation committee on 2 March at Minsk CIS Headquarters. The session on the election of the Supreme Economic Court chairman and deputy chairmen is due to be held here on 4 March.

Fail To Adopt Draft

WS0403121593 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1100 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] CIS plenipotentiary state representatives have failed to complete the draft statute of the CIS coordination and consultation committee in two days, and have made the decision to continue their work. Unofficial remarks of the participants of the conference show that even the expediency of the committee's existence was questioned. The chairman's term of office also evoked discussions.

Central Asian Leaders Discuss Unemployment

LD0303031593 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 1500 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] As a result of the meeting held on 1 and 2 March in Alma-Ata, the leaders of ministries and departments of Central Asian republics and Kazakhstan engaged in the matters of providing employment, structure of labor resources, and social support for the populations have signed an agreement on the creation of a consultative council. It will work out recommendations, coordinate mutual activities, and aid in the framework of the decisions taken by the leaders of the regional states at the beginning of this year in Tashkent.

The paramount problem discussed by the participants of the meeting was the slowing of the growth of unemployment originating with the transition to market relations and relief for those caught up in it. The growth of unemployment continues as before. There is a danger of the numbers increasing by hundred of thousands by this autumn. In order to halt this negative process, joint efforts are needed from the regional states facing similar conditions. Coordinated activities in the labor sphere will help determine more precisely the minimum wages and allowances, depending on inflation, to find more effective forms of employment funds, retraining of specialists, and creation of new working places to improve the system of social protection. Kazakh Deputy Prime Minister Asygat Zhabagin made a speech at the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for September in the capital of Tajikistan.

Single Information Area Rejected by Ukraine, Baltics

AU0403085493 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 25 Feb 93 p 5

[Report by Liliya Heorhiyeva from Moscow: "Press Services Do Not Unite, They Cooperate"]

[Text] Press attaches of embassies and permanent and plenipotentiary missions of CIS and Baltic countries accredited in Moscow held the first meeting of their professional international club. Its main task is to promote the dissemination of information.

However, at the beginning, everything was pictured differently by some people: They spoke about "a single information area of the CIS." Representatives of the Ukrainian Embassy in the Russian Federation rejected such an idea. Representatives of the Baltic states did not understand the very notion: What is this new "single" area? It is another matter—to discuss professional problems of international journalism and to give assistance to the press in its work in the expanses of the former fatherland, where journalists may get shot or thrown into prison. This is what was decided upon, and all mention of the "leading role of the big brother" or close contacts with the information administration at Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs was erased from the club's initial draft statute that had been proposed by the Russians.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 4 Mar

LD0403091293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0824 GMT 4 Mar 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow March 4 TASS—NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA comments on a Russian Federation Security Council meeting in the Kremlin on Wednesday [3 March]. The council focused on matters concerning a military doctrine and a concept of the main orientations of the country's foreign policy.

"Experts believe that President Boris Yeltsin (at any rate, as far as a concept of foreign policy is concerned), had available such a concept through the efforts of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs). There were no official hearings in the parliament on that score. [no closing quotation marks as received]

On Wednesday, after the council discussed and endorsed the basic tenets of the foreign policy concept, prepared by the council's inter-agency commission on the strength of the above-mentioned elaborations by the Foreign Ministry, it was decided to refer them to parliament.

Having quoted Yeltsin's remarks at the Security Council meeting on Wednesday that a delay with the adoption of a military doctrine and a concept of foreign policy directly makes for destabilising the situation in Russia and brings about a good deal of political speculations, the newspaper writes, with reference to sources from among the president's entourage, that by the time the forthcoming congress meets, Yeltsin will have both documents available.

In the opinion of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR), no agreement to work towards overcoming the constitutional crisis in the country is seen so far, and the forthcoming Congress of People's Deputies will hardly succeed in achieving compromise solutions.

The newspaper believes that President Yeltsin is ready for resolute actions. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA supposes that the parliament will also prepare its reply today, on Thursday, when a joint meeting of the parliamentary chambers is held.

PRAVDA carriers an article by Russian parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov, who expresses his opinions about the role and place of the local governing councils in the life of Russian society, and an item by news analyst Viktor Trushkov, who regards some of the speaker's judgements as debatable. However, "The overall orientation of his remarks is much more important: to keep the councils intact is a major political and civic task of the day," the journalist maintains.

PRAVDA runs an interview given to the newspaper's correspondent in Helsinki by President Mauno Koivisto of the Republic of Finland on the eve of his visit to Moscow.

Having pointed out that political relations between Russia and Finland can be referred to as good, Dr. Koivisto remarked that in the trade sphere they had slackened over the past several years.

"The problems of financing are now the main stumbling-block in trade between our two countries. We traditionally supply our eastern neighbour with investment goods over the past decades. Such goods—machinery and equipment—accounted for three-fourths of our export to Russia," Mauno Koivisto emphasised.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA calls for an urgent moratorium on fisheries in the central part of the sea of Okhotsk for both Russian and foreign ships.

Foreign ships enter the Russian economic zone and continue to poach there with impunity in breach of Russia's legislature, points out an article to its effect.

Unlawful fisheries there now involve from 50 to 70 ships from Poland, China, and the Republic of Korea, the article notes.

PRAVDA and NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carry articles timed for the 40th anniversary of the death of Stalin.

TRUD carries an interview with Ranandra Sena, the ambassador of India to the Russian Federation. "The recent visit to India by President Boris Yeltsin of Russia is undoubtedly of historic importance. It has given a new impulse to the development of relations between the two countries," the ambassador said.

In RUSSKIYE VESTI newspaper, General of the Army Makhmut Gareyev discusses the nature and orientation of the Russian military doctrine. Professor Gareyev, Dr. of military science, polemizes with those scholars who deny the need for a military doctrine for Russia.

Emphasising an urgent necessity for the adoption of a military doctrine, the scientist pointed out that "under contemporary conditions the orientation of a military doctrine is determined by a renewed military policy of the Russian state, not by a supermilitarised one, and its main principles cannot but find reflection in a military doctrine, just as major aspects of state policy in general find their reflection in the economy, culture, financial structure and other fields of activity. The Army can and must be outside politics but this does not mean that it ceases to be an instrument of politics."

Talks on Venue for Yeltsin-Clinton Meeting Continue

LD0403102493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0917 GMT 4 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow March 4 TASS—A decision on the venue for holding a meeting between the Russian and U.S. presidents, which is due to take place on April 4, is yet to be made. A high-ranking Russian diplomat told ITAR-TASS today that this issue is now vigorously discussed along diplomatic channels.

The accord to hold the first summit between Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton was reached during talks between Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher late last February. However, the issue of the venue for the summit remains open. The meeting is supposed to take place in some third country and will be Clinton's first foreign trip as the U.S. president.

Clinton, Christopher Back Russian Democracy

PM0403133993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Mar 93 p 1

[Aleksandr Shalnev report: "Bill Clinton: 'If the Reforms in Russia Fail, the World Will Suffer'"]

[Text] Washington—"Imagine the consequences for Europe if millions of Russian citizens decided that they have no option but to flee to the West, where wages are 50 times higher...."

U.S. President Bill Clinton urged Americans and above all Congress to ponder this prospect when he delivered a speech at the end of last week at the American University in Washington. On the whole the speech was devoted to international trade problems and to international financial and economic relations. But the President let it be clearly understood that the search for a solution to these problems would not be productive and worthwhile unless measures are taken to "ensure the success of democracy in Russia and in the world's other new democratic countries."

The logical link here is simple: Without political and economic stability in these countries, based on the principles of democracy and the free market, there is no guarantee that the United States will continue to cut military expenditure, which, Clinton stressed, is so important for our "domestic" economic programs.

What, the president went on, causes most concern is the extremely complex state of the Russian economy. "If the economic reforms begun by President Yeltsin are abandoned, if it does not prove possible to control hyperinflation, the whole world will suffer."

The president left no doubt that his administration intends to give aid. "If," he said, "we were prepared to spend trillions of dollars in order to defeat communism in the 'Cold War,' we must of course invest a little of this in the cause of supporting democracy—in a situation when communism has collapsed."

The President did not cite any figures, but information has been leaked to the press that in the next financial year the administration will request Congress to allocate another $300 million in addition to the $400-odd million that has already been appropriated for aid programs to the former Union under Bush's Freedom Support Law.

But there are a considerable number of people in Congress opposed to the allocation of an additional $300 million, who believe that Clinton should first of all sort out the "domestic" economy.

The situation that has developed is such that Democrat Senator Patrick Leahy, who in principle is totally in favor of helping Russia, expressed himself to the effect that maybe it is time to seek new ways of working with our country.

One of the likely elements of a new approach is Washington's readiness not to put a spoke in our wheels when we once again develop an active arms trade. As Secretary of State Warren Christopher stated Sunday [28 February], "I see no reason why Russia should not be allowed to compete for markets in the sale of arms—if, of course, the purchasers are responsible people... They are entitled to earn dollars in this way—as other countries are... After all, in the last year arms deliveries from Russia have decreased colossally."

The secretary of state did, however, specify that the United States would object if Russia "attempts to sell its weapons to countries about which we are concerned—Iran, for example." Christopher let it be known that the United States might also have objections as to the type of weapons, even if Russia was to sell them to "responsible" countries.

The secretary of state was asked a question which can currently be heard in Washington in one version or another: Is the United States not making the same mistake as it did before with Gorbachev, by investing so much in the cause of supporting Yeltsin at the moment? Is there really nobody else in Russia with whom it would be possible to work?

According to Christopher, President Yeltsin is "the best option in Russia at this time. He was elected by the Russian people, and he has very strong convictions in the matter of democracy and the free market. At this moment we do not know who would be better. He is an acknowledged leader."

Kozyrev Comments on Talks With Christopher

MK0303141493 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No. 10, 7 Mar 93 (Signed to Press 2 Mar 93) p 15A

[Interview with Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev by Aleksey Pushkov: "Russia Is a Major Priority for the United States"]

[Text] At the end of last week Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev met in Geneva for the first time with Warren Christopher, the new U.S. secretary of state. Immediately on his return to Moscow he granted an interview to Aleksey Pushkov, deputy chief editor of MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI.

[Pushkov] Mr. Minister, was this your first official contact with the new U.S. secretary of state?

[Kozyrev] Let us say it was our first contact other than on the telephone.

[Pushkov] What impression did Christopher make on you?

[Kozyrev] During my brief spell as Russian foreign minister Christopher is the third U.S. secretary of state with which I have had to deal. I worked closely with Baker. With Eagleburger too, particularly in Geneva, when the START II Treaty was being prepared. I have not had that experience with Christopher. The feeling I got from the meeting was that he is a professional of a very high caliber.

[Pushkov] What do you think were the main results of the talks?

[Kozyrev] The meeting revealed that the new administration has a clear intention to develop relations with Russia and it acknowledges that Russia is a priority for the United States. We, unlike some of our observers, were not surprised by this. Another very important point is that we primed ourselves for a new agenda in relations with the United States. What it boils down to is implementing the partnership concept formulated in the Washington Declaration.

In particular, we raised the question of rescheduling our debt, access to the space, nuclear, and military technology markets, and assistance for Russia in joining GATT. We know that these are difficult problems, but we insist that our political relationship with the United States should prompt it to make sacrifices. I think we basically understood each other. The new orentiation—theirs and ours—toward domestic economic priorities should not cause us to drift apart, as some people say it will, but, on the contrary, it requires deeper and broader cooperation.

Indeed, neither Russia nor the United States will be able to tackle its internal tasks without a minimum amount of external stability and mutual trust.

[Pushkov] What interest does the United States have in Russia today?

[Kozyrev] It is perfectly clear that the numerous conflict situations in the world require Russian-American collaboration. The remaining centers of power are still not in a position to exercise a real influence on the situation in the trouble spots, be it in the Near East, Angola, or Yugoslavia. Clearly we do not have a monopolar world, although there is much talk of this here and in the United States. A multipolar world may be taking shape, but its elements are not operating as yet. For example, Japan or China might aspire to the role of one of the poles, but they are not perceived at the moment as world players in cases where we or the Americans are. So everyone was very enthusiastic about our and the U.S. representatives joining the talks on Yugoslavia.

[Pushkov] Was an agreement reached in Geneva on holding a meeting between Yeltsin and Clinton?

[Kozyrev] We finalized the date. The Americans proposed an earlier date. But we chose 4 April, to have time to prepare. Incidentally, it was we who insisted on the meeting, and that it should take place as early as possible, while the Americans appeared not to want that. Actual relations between Moscow and Washington are much more substantive and much more stable than superficial commentaries sometimes suggest. Indeed, there is a clear appreciation on both sides that strategic partnership between Russia and the United States is the only way.

[Pushkov] What do you see as the main purpose of the summit?

[Kozyrev] Without it and until it occurs it is difficult to translate the partnership concept into specific action. As for the agenda, it has not yet been elaborated. Similarly, the venue has not been chosen, although it is clear that it will be in a third country.

[Pushkov] We know that the Yugoslav question was discussed during the talks. The positions of the United States and Russia have differed of late: Washington is insisting on a tougher line on Serbia, while Moscow, on the other hand, is inclined to soften it. Is there a foundation for a joint Russian-American position here?

[Kozyrev] There is, although nuances and even differences do remain. But what we say is that they are not of an ideological nature. Incidentally, that is the difference between the approach of the president and the Foreign Ministry, on the one hand, and part of the Supreme Soviet, on the other. Part of our parliament is trying to portray the existing differences between us and the United States on Yugoslavia as having an inbuilt ideological character, as something that precludes partnership. On the contrary, what we are emphasizing is ideological partnership, not discord.

Both we and the Americans clearly appreciate the need for joint action. We may argue, but no way can we allow the Yugoslav crisis to turn into a clash between world powers or world forces on the basis of the client-state principle. Incidentally, we very strongly criticize our Western partners when they urge us, for example, to "take into account the pressure from the Muslim countries." Indeed, if one accepts the actual premise of the possibility of pressure from countries that have clients in the shape of the Bosnian Muslims, then one can imagine the formation of a grouping of Christian countries, and within it a division into Catholics and Orthodox and so on. Then you could actually have the Third World war starting in Sarajevo!

Moreover, I think the present U.S. Administration is very pragmatic. The previous one tended to be simplistic; in particular it had the idea of military intervention in Bosnia. A similar logic gave the Bosnian Muslims the illusion that they had not so much to engage in talks as wait for intervention. But the new administration realizes that intervention is unthinkable, and if only for that reason it is necessary to concentrate on the negotiating process.

[Pushkov] On the eve of the Geneva meeting there were many anxious commentaries in the U.S. press about Russia's intention to get the United States to agree to its trading in weapons on a wider scale. Could this become a serious problem in Russian-American relations?

[Kozyrev] In principle there were no political objections from the United States. And that is the main achievement of our partnership. Indeed, if we are partners, then why, for example, can France compete with the United States in the arms market in the Persian Gulf and Russia cannot?

So obstacles have been removed in the political sphere and now we have every chance to join in the competition. But it does not end there. Success in it will depend primarily on the quality of the goods we are offering, and the "package"—that is, guaranteed spare parts, reliable maintenance, and so on.

Moreover, we have to knowingly walk the line that separates the sale of the latest and most powerful armaments from a breach of the rules of nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction and missile technology or supplies that have an obvious destabilizing quality. Finally, in the arms market you have to know how to behave: how to prevent overt dumping while reducing prices. So we are talking about an able, energetic fight for markets, but one that observes the established rules of the game.

[Pushkov] To what extent does the unstable political situation in Russia affect our relations with the United States? Did you sense any concern about this on the American side's part during the talks?

[Kozyrev] The theme of support for the reforms, and, what is particularly important, for Yeltsin himself, came out very strongly in Christopher's speech at the closing press conference. I do not think it was so much an echo of the old "and Leonid Ilich Brezhnev personally" motif—the Americans tend not to go in for groveling anyway—as an attempt to signal that as far as the United States is concerned, the democratic transformations in Russia are associated with a particular name. On the other hand, the danger of a loss of leadership in the democratic transformations and of unprincipled compromises worries the West.

[Pushkov] What do you think might serve as a basis for a broader, although not unprincipled accord in the sphere of foreign policy?

[Kozyrev] The fewer abstract opinions there are in foreign policy debates and the more attempts there are to get to the bottom of things, the greater scope there will be for cooperation. The ideological heat is clearly abating, and on this basis—on the basis of a specific study of the subject—there could be a certain consolidation of political forces. But it would be wrong to interpret this as meaning that we can make compromises with the opposition extremists. We make no claims to the absolute truth, we are carefully listening to advice, and we are adjusting our line. But I believe that concessions to nationalist, Red-Brown forces are unacceptable.

Commentary on Missile Technology Export Controls

PM0303143593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 3 Mar 93 p 2

[Sergey Yakovlev "commentary": "'Black List' of Russia's Trading Partners? This Is Inappropriate for It"]

[Text] Russian-U.S. consultations have been in progress since the beginning of this year, meant to reach agreement on a bilateral memorandum on missile technology export control.

Andrey Kushnirenko, first deputy chief of the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations Exports Strategy and Support Department, announced that the memorandum's text was virtually agreed during the first round of talks in January. During that round, the two sides arrived at agreement not to assist the proliferation to third countries of missile technologies and other systems capable of providing the basis for development of weapons of mass destruction. The sides pledged to cooperate with one another on an equal basis in this sphere. The document also contained reservations regarding ties with traditional U.S. and Russian partners in this sphere.

But two disputed issues of principle remained. The Americans insisted on the mandatory inclusion of a point about modifying the well-known contract with India, which provides for the delivery of Russian cryogenic engines, as well as on agreeing a "black list" of countries subject to restrictions as regards the sale of missile technology. If we failed to accept these conditions, the United States threatened to extend the sanctions imposed on Glavkosmos also to several of our firms which are in no way involved in the Indian contract.

According to A. Kushnirenko, we are in principle unable to accept this position. Much has already been said about the Indian contract, we do not believe that we have breached our commitments, and we have for a long time insisted on an international experts' study of this deal. As regards the "black list," any rigid compilation of such a list is at present both politically and economically inexpedient for Russia, since the Americans propose including in it some of our traditional partners like India, Brazil, Egypt, and other countries. It has become known through diplomatic channels that the U.S. delegation will today bring along fresh proposals, making it possible to untie the disputed "knots."

Despite the different viewpoints, the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations spokesman is convinced that the upcoming round will see yet another step along the path to agreement, and it can be hoped that the memorandum's text will be finally agreed during the first half of the year.

Security Accord With Ukraine To Fight Terrorism

LD0303214693 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Report by correspondent Aleksandr Barkhatov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] By signing a package of working protocols today, the heads of the special services of Russia and Ukraine provided guarantees that they do not view one another as a potential adversary, but will direct their joint efforts towards the fight against drug trade and terrorism, finding, at last, a form of cooperation also in the investigation of emergency situations, whether economic or ecological. They also undertake together to ensure the protection of nuclear installations and the security of the civil maritime fleets.

[Begin recording] [Russian Security Minister Barannikov] We have gone over from simply making declarations to giving effect to our potentialities in practice.

[Barkhatov] Does the effect of the working protocols that have been signed today extend to protecting and jointly ensuring the security of military nuclear installations on the territory of Ukraine?

[Ukrainian Security Service Chairman Marchuk] At present, protocols have been signed concerning nuclear power-engineering installations. But we have a cooperation agreement between the Security Ministry and the Ukrainian Security Service which provides for cooperation over a very wide range, including ensuring the security of military nuclear installations. [end recording]

During our period of transparent [prozrachnykh] frontiers and illusory [prizrachnykh] hopes, it is, perhaps, quite acceptable to say that the special services have united.

Grachev: No Breakthrough in Arms Talks With Ukraine

LD0303135193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1320 GMT 3 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow March 3 TASS—No breakthrough has been reached at Russian-Ukrainian talks on strategic nuclear weapons which have been going on for the second day outside Moscow, according to Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev.

"Moreover, some of the Ukrainian leaders have even stated that the nuclear weapons deployed on the Ukrainian territory are almost the Ukrainian property", he told reporters on Wednesday, but added that many members of the Ukrainian delegation do not agree with the claims.

The minister acknowledged that no positive steps in recognising the Russian right to possess the nuclear weapons had been reached.

Grachev reiterated his readiness to make a statement if the question of the owner of the weapons deployed in Ukraine is not settled at the talks.

The minister said he "would shed light on the technical state of the nuclear weapons, on the situation with the units of missile forces" and will raise the question that Russia bears no responsibility for nuclear safety on the territory of Ukraine.

"I think common sense will prevail and the sides will adopt a just and correct decision during the day", the minister said.

Ukrainian Ambassador Interviewed on Relations

PM0203162993 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Mar 93 p 2

[Interview with V.P. Kryzhanovskiy, Ukrainian ambassador to Russia, by Nikolay Musiyenko; place and date not given: "We Are Alike. But We Are Still Different"]

[Text] [Musiyenko] Vladimir Petrovich, our peoples came from the same cradle and lived in the same apartment for more than three centuries.

[Kryzhanovskiy] A communal apartment....

[Musiyenko] All the same, you cannot cancel out a common history and sever overnight what linked us. Nevertheless, Ukraine frequently takes a "special stance," which introduces a dissonance into its contacts with Russia.

[Kryzhanovskiy] Even a husband and wife, a brother and sister, a son and mother frequently hold different viewpoints. Why cannot Ukraine have its own opinion on particular problems? We need independence not merely to make the colors of our flag different from those of Russia's. Independence is the shortest path toward prosperity for the multinational Ukrainian people. Ukraine must build its own financial, economic, social, and cultural policy. In some respects it will resemble the policy of Russia, Belarus, and other former union republics, while in some respects it will differ substantially. This is absolutely normal.

We have tremendous respect for the Russian people. We count on similar respect for us. Do not think us nitwits who are incapable of understanding what is good for our state and what is bad.

[Musiyenko] The editorial office receives many letters from Russians whom destiny has deposited in Ukraine. Naturally, they are concerned as to how their life will shape up in what is now a foreign state. In schools, for example, there are fewer and fewer classes with instruction in the Russian language, office work is switching to Ukrainian....

[Kryzhanovskiy] When I hear such things, I cannot help taking umbrage at the contempt shown for my people. Is it really so difficult to learn the native tongue of your friends, acquaintances, and colleagues—a rich, melodious language? I assure you: No one is forcing the Russians permanently resident in Ukraine to abandon their native tongue. But let their children, at least, learn the "mova" [Ukrainian for "language"]. This will in no way hinder them, on the contrary it will help them in the future to feel they are fully fledged citizens of our republic—to graduate from any higher educational institution, to choose any specialty, and to hold any post, even that of president. For everyone in the United States knows English, although it, too, is a multinational state. Nobody shouts that human rights are thereby being violated.

[Musiyenko] Let us return to relations between our countries. How do you assess them?

[Kryzhanovskiy] They are warming noticeably. Our new prime minister, just after taking up this post, categorically declared: The state of economic "cold war" between Ukraine and Russia must be ended! Just a little later, at the Moscow meeting of the two presidents, it was emphasized that Russian-Ukrainian relations are a priority for both states.

Step by step we are eliminating the burden of accumulated problems. We recently reached agreement on deliveries of petroleum products from Russia in exchange for our participation in equipping Tyumen wells. We are pooling efforts to remove the "stoppers" in banking transactions. We have signed agreements on scientific, technical, and economic cooperation in the spheres of nuclear power and transportation and protocols on the phased introduction of free trade and on social protection for Ukrainian and Russian citizens working outside their states. Questions of Ukrainian property in Russia have been settled. This concerns Siberian timber procurement establishments, in particular. Neither will anyone encroach anymore on the Black Sea sanatoriums which belonged to Russian enterprises prior to the breakup of the Union. There have also been other favorable moves....

As you see, given a calm dialogue and a respectful attitude toward your partner, it is possible to resolve all disputed issues. Yes, this is the second year that we have been living in separate apartments. But this does not mean that we have stopped needing each other, that we do not have common interests, or that we have stopped being friends.

Army Paper Criticizes Ukraine's Stance on Croatia

PM0403130193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Mar 93 p 3

[Mikhail Pogorelyy report: "Such Are the Traditions"]

[Text] "B" comes after "A" even in Ukrainian. Otherwise, you get inconsistency.

Ukraine has spoken in support of the basic provisions of the Vance-Owen plan to settle the Yugoslav crisis. But it has categorically opposed the introduction of the measures applying pressure on Croatia proposed by Russia with the aim of placing the former Yugoslav republics on an equal footing. The majority of UN states are inclined to agree with our country's position. At any rate, the Security Council has passed a resolution condemning the Croatian forces' combat operations in Serbian Krajina. There is growing realization in the world that it is necessary to hold the opposing sides equally responsible for the violence, bloodshed, and casualties. Any attempts to solve the problem one-sidedly are futile. This has now been realized by those who supported just one of the sides in the state.

Why, then, does Ukraine remain an unambiguous ally of Croatia alone? Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko has cited "traditional ties" with Croatia here. Traditions established either at the time when the two states were part, respectively, of the Russian and Ottoman empires or in the last 12-18 months... Traditions do, incidentally, take time. The only annoying thing is that Ukraine is fostering another "tradition" at an accelerated pace: Making an unpredictable and not always justified political or diplomatic move at the slightest opportunity. The main point is that it should not coincide with Russia's stance. That is how it has been now on problems of nuclear arms, conventional arms, and the armed forces and on dozens of economic and financial issues. Who benefits from such "traditions"? Only politicians gratifying their pride.

Germany's Kohl Stops in Moscow To Meet With Yeltsin

OW0303155093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1541 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On his way from South Korea back to Germany Chancellor Helmut Kohl made a stopover in Moscow. His plane landed in Vnukovo- 2 airport from where Kohl went to one of the nearest state-owned country houses to meet President Boris Yeltsin of Russia.

They are expected to have talks alone, without their aides, for about 60 minutes following which Kohl will leave Moscow.

Supports Reform Efforts

OW0303180493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1727 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany said in Moscow on Wednesday [3 March] that Germany would like Russia to stay on the course of democracy and economic liberalization. Before leaving the Russian capital he said at a news conference that he made this known to Boris Yeltsin.

Summarizing his more than 60 minutes talk with the Russian president in one of his country houses Kohl said that Yeltsin briefed him on the political situation in Russia on the eve of the Congress of People's Deputies. He said that the possibility of imposing direct presidential rule in the case of the Congress making decisions unfavorable for Yeltsin had not been discussed.

Asked whether the Russian president will be invited to the G7 meeting in Tokyo Kohl said that the members of the group will abide by the procedure they agreed; the host of the meeting, Kiichi Miyazawa, Japan's Prime-Minister, will consult other members and will make a decision when he knows their views. "All of us understand what an important and powerful state Russia is," the Chancellor added.

He said that talks on the bilateral relations included discussion of his possible role in helping Russia in its negotiations in the framework of the International Monetary Fund.

Praises Yeltsin

LD0303223593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2156 GMT 3 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow March 4 TASS—German Chancellor Helmut Kohl has shared his impressions of his meetings with Russian President Boris Yeltsin talking to journalists in Moscow airport on Wednesday [3 March].

Kohl made it clear that both himself and Western political circles were interested in the continuation of reforms in Russia and were determined to support Russia's course for democratisation and reforms.

In Kohl's opinion, Yeltsin is realistically assessing the situation and is "a man of courage and true fighter".

As for Russia's joining the Council of Europe, Kohl said that the consultations to this effect had been going on and that this problem would be resolved. Kohl believes that the West should say "yes" to Russia if its course for democratisation and reforms remains unchanged.

The Chancellor said that such meetings are always focused on bilateral relations. He pointed out that he did not rule out the possibility of rendering assistance to Russia to receive credits via the International Monetary Fund.

Official Presents Peacekeeping Operations Document at UN

LD0403070593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0702 GMT 4 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeny Menkes]

[Text] United Nations March 4 TASS—"Participation of Russia in Peace-Making Operations in Ex-Soviet Countries" is the title of a document presented at the news conference here on Wednesday [3 March] by Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Sergey Lavrov.

The participation of Russia in peace-making operations is conditional on the need to ensure the country's own security and on its awareness of its special responsibility for stability and human rights on the territory of the former Soviet Union in response to appeals from other countries requesting assistance in settling conflicts, the document says.

At present agreements on peace-making operations are in effect with respect to South Ossetia, the Dniester area, Abkhazia and Tajikistan.

The legal basis for peace-keeping operations of the Commonwealth member countries within the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States is laid in the agreement on groups of military observers and collective peace-keeping forces in the Commonwealth signed at the summit in Kiev on March 20, 1992, as well as three protocols to this agreement, the document says.

The agreement was signed by the leaders of Azerbaijan (with reservations), Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Ukraine (with reservations).

The document mentions that in accordance with the agreement decisions on sending in peace-keeping forces are made by the council of the heads of state of the Commonwealth member-countries only if a request is submitted by all conflicting sides, as well as if they reach an agreement on ceasefire and an end to other hostilities before the peace-keeping force is sent in.

The main tasks of the peace-keeping groups resemble the functions of the United Nations peace-making forces, the document says. These tasks include supervision over the fulfillment of the terms of truce and agreements on ceasefire, disengagement of the warring parties, the creation of demilitarized zones and humanitarian corridors, the creation of conditions for negotiations on the peaceful settlement of the conflict, suppressing mass disorders, and assisting in ensuring human rights.

Other tasks are the guarding of vital important installations, the ensuring of the safety of transport and communications, the extension of humanitarian aid to civilian inhabitants, the participation in the fulfillment of decisions and recommendations for the peaceful settlement of conflicts by the United Nations Security Council and the agencies of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Peace-keeping groups have the right to use arms to ensure the safety of their personnel and exercise their right to self-defence, as well as to rebuff attacks by terrorist groups and protect civilians.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told the news conference that the actions of the Commonwealth member countries in this sphere resemble the experience of the U.N. peace-keeping forces but also have their specific peculiarities. In particular, the forces of the conflicting parties are used to ensure the fulfillment of their agreements.

Moscow Plans 'Symbolic' Participation in Bosnian Airdrop

PM0303165993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Mar 93 Morning Edition p 3

[By Maksim Yusin]

[Text] The Russian Foreign Ministry announced on 2 March that Moscow will participate in the operations to supply humanitarian aid to Bosnia that started a few days ago on U.S. initiative.

Boris Yeltsin confirmed this decision in a meeting with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas the same day. A Russian presidential directive was sent to various bodies that evening.

Following its initial, rather cautious reaction to the U.S. plan, Moscow changed its stand and, as we can see, has not merely supported the U.S. initiative but has gone much further than many West European states, which have refrained from participating in the operation. Washington welcomed Russia's decision through Richard Boucher, State Department spokesman.

The technical details and dates of the operation are being coordinated with the United States. Representatives of the Russian Committee for Emergency Situations held talks at the U.S. Embassy on 2 and 3 March. A general picture of the action being prepared can already be formed. As informed sources in the Foreign Ministry have reported, Russia's participation (at the first stage anyway) will be of a symbolic nature and will be limited to providing two freight airplanes for use by the international forces operating under the aegis of the United Nations.

The airplanes will be based at Frankfurt-am-Main. The humanitarian cargo which they will transport will most probably be provided by the United Nations and other international organizations. As our interlocutors at the Foreign Ministry explained, the food and medicine situation in Russia is far from being so favorable that we can afford to supply the scarce goods to Bosnia. As for transport backup for the operation, this is entirely within Moscow's powers.

Russia's expenditure will quite possibly be compensated. In any case, this wish was unequivocally expressed in a Foreign Ministry statement: "As regards the definite, albeit very limited, financial expenditure that Russia is taking upon itself in creating favorable conditions for a peace settlement, we expect that it will be taken into account and compensated to some degree by the United Nations and other countries granting humanitarian assistance to the long-suffering peoples of former Yugoslavia."

Russia Offers To Build 'Floating' Nuclear Plants in Israel

LD0303154793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1523 GMT 3 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Bakina]

[Text] Moscow March 3 TASS—Russian nuclear experts are now taking part in negotiations on building floating nuclear power plants in Israel, TASS was told at the Russian "Kurchatov Institute" of Nuclear Research.

A floating atomic station is an analogue of a nuclear-powered ice-breaker additionally equipped with water-distillers. It may be used wherever fresh water and electricity are needed.

According to Andrey Gagarinskiy, deputy head of the research institute, the construction of floating nuclear power plants aims to solve the problem of desalinizing sea water, which is quite urgent for the Middle East.

"For the time being, the points at issue are the possible use of research achievements and participation of Russian scientists in the project", he said. Later on, a competition may be announced for the best project with possible participation of foreign specialists.

So far negotiations have entered their initial stage, a protocol of intent being already drafted.

PLO Member on U.S. Role in Middle East Peace

OW0303135693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1337 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents A. Borodin, D. Voskoboynikov, I. Porshnev, and others from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] As the recent visit to Moscow by a leading member of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], and his talks with the leaders of Russia's Foreign Ministry showed, certain changes have taken place in the Palestinians' stand: they realized that to rely on the Americans alone is obviously insufficient to gain a settlement in the Middle East, a highranking Russian diplomat told Interfax. According to him, "the cooling" that emerged in the relationship between Moscow and the PLO after August, 1991, has been overcome. The Palestinians highly appreciate the stand taken by Russia, which, co-sponsoring the peace process in the Middle East together with the USA, displayed a "very flexible" and constructive attitude to the issues connected with the resumption of talks.

In the diplomat's view, the main task now is to safeguard the process of negotiations and the "fragile agreements," whose contours emerged after the recent trip to the Middle East by the American Secretary of State, Warren Christopher.

Solution to the problem of Palestinians deported by Israel acquires foremost importance in this connection. "It's necessary to find a compromise that would make it possible to resume the talks," the diplomat said. He made it clear that such a solution should not necessarily provide for a "unanimous" return of the deportees. "It's essential to get the things moving," he concluded.

Kozyrev Postpones Iran, Pakistan Visit To Attend Congress

OW0303143093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1358 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin has requested Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to attend the Congress of Russian People's Deputies which is likely to be held shortly. This announcement was made by a highly placed foreign ministry official.

In view of this the foreign ministry has altered its plans and postponed Kozyrev's planned visit to Iran, Pakistan and a number of former Soviet Central Asian republics. The visit was due to take place on March 7, but is now likely to take place on March 21 or 28. The new dates will be agreed with the host nations.

To Tour Asian Countries in Late March

LD0303175993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1713 GMT 3 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelyov]

[Text] Moscow March 3 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev might make a tour of Asian countries in the second half of March, approximately after March 20, ITAR-TASS learned on Wednesday from a reliable source in the Russian Foreign Ministry.

During the Asian tour the Russian minister intends to visit Pakistan, Iran and a number of former Soviet republics, including Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan. The tour had been planned to take place some time ago, but the foreign minister changed the time of the visit in compliance at President Yeltsin's request.

It is believed that the tour was postponed in connection with a Congress of Russian People's Deputies expected to be convened in Moscow in the next few days.

It will not be an ordinary visit in many respect and it is supposed to receive an international response. Countries which Kozyrev intends to visit "are of considerable political and economic interest to Russia," the same source said. They are its long- standing and perspective partners. The main idea of the talks will be Russia's readiness reiterated by the foreign minister to develop bilateral ties and cooperation with these countries depending on the extent to which Russia's concern about the developments in the region and its interests are taken into account.

Russia is primarily concerned about the situation around Tajikistan which is fraught with "a domino effect", the same source said.

Yeltsin, Finnish President Begin Summit in Kremlin

LD0403113193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1108 GMT 4 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow March 4 TASS—An official welcoming ceremony was held in the Kremlin today for President Mauno Koivisto of Finland who has arrived in Moscow on an official visit at the invitation of the Russian president.

In the Kremlin's St. George's's Hall the Finnish president was greeted by Russian President Boris Yeltsin, and the national anthems of Russia and Finland were played.

Talks between Boris Yeltsin and Mauno Koivisto began in St. Katherine's Hall of the Grand Kremlin Palace. They will be continued in a broader format later.

The talks in the Kremlin are expected to focus on the trade and economic relations between the two countries, including the problem of financial settlements and the repayment of Russian debts.

According to experts, the successful solution of these problems will help revive mutually-beneficial links between Russia and Finland, particularly as regards the resumption of building of a number of major joint installations on the Russian territory.

Summit Ends

LD0403122893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1222 GMT 4 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow March 4 TASS—The Russo-Finnish summit ended in the Kremlin on Thursday afternoon. Boris Yeltsin and Mauno Koivisto left for Vnukovo-2 airport. From the airport they will travel by helicopter to the Russian president's retreat at Zavidovo, 130 kilometres north of Moscow, where they are expected to continue one- to-one talks.

Presidential spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov told ITAR-TASS that during talks in the Kremlin, the two leaders confirmed mutual interest in strengthening political and economic contacts.

They stressed that relations between Russia and Finland were developing favourably. Helsinki, according to the Russian presidential spokesman, pledged full support to reforms carried out by the Russian leadership. The Finnish side expressed understanding of the difficulties which arose in trade and economic relations because they were due to the unfavourable situation, including the rouble's weakness and inconvertibility.

The two leaders pledged to continue search for ways to settle financial problems.

Finland expressed readiness to take part in the development of the stockman and coastal natural gas deposits in Northern Russia, the presidential spokesman said.

Finnish Defense Visitors Receive 'Cold Reception'

LD0303235493 Helsinki Suomen Yleisradio Network in Finnish 1530 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] The Diet Defense Committee has received a cold reception in St. Petersburg. Russian military officials have detained information and stopped the delegation from visiting a helicopter regiment under some pretext. The Defense Committee is disappointed about its visit, Jarkko Juselius reports from St. Petersburg.

[Juselius] The Diet Defense Committee learned today the hard way that the way soldiers give information has not changed in the Leningrad Military District, the name still officially used. The Defense Committee had been invited to visit the Kasimovo helicopter regiment, just over 100 km from the Finnish border. The host was Major General (Konstantin Yelsukov) from the military district staff, who is responsible for building work. The Finnish Diet deputies would have liked to have seen the equipment of the helicopter regiment but the hosts would not allow it. Major General (Yelsukov) announced to the Finnish guests that the road to the airfield was blocked. [recorded passage indistinct]

According to Yelsukov there are altogether 60 helicopters in Kasimovo, 40 of which are MI-24 combat helicopters and 20 of which are used for transport.

After the discussions I and a couple of other reporters had a chance to go and inspect the state of the road to the airfield. Antti Rauramo, Diet deputy of the National Coalition Party, came with us. Surprisingly the road to the airfield was extraordinarily well plowed. The road to the airfield is only one and a half km and we were able to drive to the runway of the airfield without anybody stopping us. Alongside the airfield there were dozens of helicopters with service personnel around them. We made a round on the runway and left the place.

It is slightly hard to understand why the Defense Committee was cheated in a such a clumsy way. Major General (Yelsukov) said earlier, however, that he had been given an order to show the building work of the Kasimovo garrison. Puolimatka [a Finnish construction company] is building over 500 dwellings for this helicopter regiment.

The Kasimovo discussion today went the same way as the committee's meeting yesterday with representatives of the Leningrad Military District. No new information was given but the Russian general assured that the Kasimovo regiment is not a threat to Finland. The committee has been very disappointed about the superficial information given and the treatment at the Kasimovo regiment. The trip was made because Russian Ambassador in Helsinki Yuriy Deryabin last fall promised the Diet deputies an opportunity to obtain direct information on the Leningrad Military District.

The openness of the information will be measured again this month when Defense Minister Elisabeth Rehn visits the same Kasimovo helicopter regiment.

Rutskoy Makes Brief Visit to Indonesia

LD0303143693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1356 GMT 3 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Fedortsov]

[Text] Jakarta March 3 TASS—Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy made a stopover in the Indonesian town of Denpasar on Wednesday [3 March] on his way to New Zealand.

He met leaders of the Bali Province and discussed several issues of Russian-Indonesian trade and economic relations.

Arrives in New Zealand

LD0403063193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0552 GMT 4 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Kuznetsov]

[Text] Wellington 4 March—Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy has arrived in New Zealand for an official visit. Today he met New Zealand Prime Minister Jim Bolger. After the meeting, a joint statement said that it was a turning point in the development of bilateral relations. During the negotiations, the vice president said that the Russian Federation is carrying out political and economic reforms. The prime minister stated that New Zealand has gone through a complex program of structural transformations, of which certain aspects could be used in the progress of reforms in Russia.

Rutskoy and Bolger exchanged opinions on ways of stimulating and broadening trade and economic cooperation between the two states. They pointed out the importance of traditional trade links and agreed that the Russian Federation and New Zealand will examine ways of encouraging commercial organizations to search for new initiatives in trade development. There are also a range of fields where cooperation on a commercial basis can be established. Rutskoy met a number of senior ministers of the New Zealand Cabinet in the afternoon.

The Russian vice president met Michael Moore, leader of the opposition Labor Party, in Wellington.

Malaysia Shows Interest in Buying Russian MiG's

PM0303163593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Mar 93 p 3

[RIA correspondent Aleksandr Babitskiy, especially for IZVESTIYA: "A. Rutskoy Trying to Persuade Malaysians to Buy MiG-29s"]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur—Russian Vice President A. Rutskoy's talks in Kuala Lumpur could be the crucial factor in the contest between the Russian and U.S. military-industrial complexes for the Malaysian market. The Russian leader's first visit to Malaysia could help win the country's defense industry a multimillion contract for the sale of air force equipment.

A. Rutskoy approached the establishment of Russo-Malaysian military-technical ties with the determination of a military airman. "We will settle the whole MiG question," he stated at the beginning of a three-day official visit to Malaysia. During talks with the country's prime minister, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamed, A. Rutskoy clearly stated Russia's interest in selling the MiG-29M to the Malaysian air force.

The prime minister's reaction, in the words of his press secretary, was "very, very serious and interested." An extra meeting with the defense minister has been included in A. Rutskoy's program for 3 March. It seems that these talks will be decisive as far as clinching the deal goes.

If Kuala Lumpur accepts the Russian side's terms, this will be the Russian military-industrial complex' first sortie into the Malaysian market. Russia's preliminary offer includes the supply of 18 MiG-29M fighters and Mi-35 combat helicopters. The contract could be worth U.S.$760 million in total. The talk about the sale of our fighters to Malaysia has been going on for over a year now. A month ago the Americans became actively involved in the game. Russia faces competition from two U.S. firms—McDonnell-Douglas with its F/A fighter bombers which were used by the United States in Kuwait, and General Dynamics, with modifications of the F-16 fighter. The Malaysian Air Force is presently equipped with F-5 E fighters.

The Americans have considerably reduced the prices for their product and, according to the existing information, the price of the MiG was also reduced by the Russian side during the present meeting. A. Rutskoy's package of proposals includes a personnel training program and the supply of aircraft components. A. Rutskoy visited local enterprises specializing in the repair and construction of aircraft equipment. The plants made a great impression on the vice president and during his tour he proposed that vacant land be used to build an extra shop for the refitting and modernization of 5,000 An-12 planes which have been decommissioned by Russia. According to A. Rutskoy, this plane had a good track record in Afghanistan and could be successfully sold in Asia. The Malaysians' reaction to Rutskoy's proposal was more than positive. Clearly in the near future we can expect the arrival of Malaysian military men and trade specialists in Moscow.

Turkish Foreign Minister Explains Stand on Bosnia

MK0303144893 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Mar 93 p 4

[Mikhail Karpov report under the rubric "Visit": "Turkey Against Military Solution to Balkan Crisis. Hikmet Cetin, Visiting Moscow, Favors Peaceful Solution"]

[Text] "Turkey has very good relations with Russia, as with all the other former Soviet republics." This was the polite diplomatic statement with which Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin began his answers to questions from a NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent. The interview proceeded in the same spirit, probably more because the minister had limited time to spare than because he was unwilling to give straight answers to the questions. It was noted, for example, that the great expectations that the former Soviet republics with predominantly Turkic-speaking and Muslim populations pin on Turkey certainly do not mean that the latter wishes to extend its influence to them. "Turkey does not follow a policy of Pan-Turkism, or Pan-Islamism, and it is not going to engage in rivalry with anyone in this region, including Russia," Hikmet Cetin said.

Mr. Cetin was disinclined to pay special attention to a certain divergence of Turkey's and Russia's views on the solution to the Yugoslav conflict. He said, however, that Turkey did not think that mercenaries from his country were taking part in any conflicts. The point is, he thought, that nearly 2 million Turkish citizens have roots in the Balkans. Many have their friends and relations living in Bosnia and Hercegovina, and some of them may have gone there to help them. On the other hand, the minister was aware that people wanting to fight on the Slavic side are arriving in the republic from Russia. "I do not think this is right," Hikmet Cetin noted, "because the conflict cannot be settled in this manner; this only serves to inflames it." When volunteers die, the country they come from, the minister thought, is drawn into the conflict against its will.

Answering the NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent's question as to whether he felt that observers were gaining the impression that Turkey was more ready than Russia to use military force in the Balkans, Cetin refuted this claim. The minister stressed: "This is an erroneous opinion; we have never advocated a military solution to the Yugoslav crisis; but if all means should prove futile, we could take part in UN air actions to prevent the participation in the war in Bosnia of aircraft taking off, so it is asserted, from Serbian airfields. With the exception of these limited actions, Turkey has no intention of intervening militarily."

Regarding the conviction among Russian diplomats that all belligerent sides in Bosnia and Hercegovina are equally responsible, Hikmet Cetin observed that the whole world knows that it is Muslims who are suffering most from the war there. In his opinion, this is happening in no small degree because the other communities are supported by states that are behind them, whereas the Muslims are left to their own devices. Cetin is convinced that the war in Bosnia should be approached from universal humanitarian positions rather than from the viewpoint of a clash between different faiths.

DPRK Denounces IAEA Inspection Plans

LD0203152493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1439 GMT 2 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Krylovich and Oleg Polovko]

[Text] Moscow March 2 TASS—"North Korean Ambassador to Moscow Son Son-pil has described a decision by the IAEA to carry out a special inspection of two secret facilities in North Korea as "serious violation of North Korean sovereignty."

A week ago the IAEA Directors' Council has adopted a resolution demanding that in a month's time North Korea guarantees access for IAEA experts to inspect two facilities on the territory on the nuclear research centre in Naenben, which, according to IAEA information, are nuclear waste storage tanks.

The North Korean ambassador told TASS that the resolution runs counter to the IAEA charter, since it was adopted on the basis of information provided by the third party - the United States.

The ambassador pointed out that facilities indicated in the resolution are ordinary military facilities not subject to IAEA control. Pyongyang has apprehensions that the results of the inspection may be used in the interests of third countries.

At the same time the ambassador stressed that North Korea is open for talks with IAEA if this organisation acts independently and not under pressure from the United States.

The ambassador dismissed rumours alleging that North Korea is developing nuclear weapons, saying they do not conform to reality.

Afghan Minister Confirms Readiness To Release POW's

LD0303193693 ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1735 GMT 3 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow, 3 Mar—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev today received Afghanistan's Construction Minister A.R. Karimi, who conveyed a personal message from Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani to Russian President Boris Yeltsin. A frank and interested talk took place on prospects for the development of Russian-Afghan relations in accordance with the mutual striving by Russia and Afghanistan to build these relations on the basis of equal rights, free of the features of the past.

The Afghan representative confirmed the readiness of his country's government to free from captivity two former Soviet servicemen and to ensure that they are conveyed to Moscow in the next few days.

Border Demarcation With PRC Could Take Five Years

LD0403131893 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1200 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Demarcation is now under way of the more than 4,000-km-long border between Russia and China, most of it stretching along rivers. A Russian representative in the Demarcation Commission, Yuriy (Aharov), said the measure was caused by the inaccuracies of border delineation contained in previous agreements that are more than a century old. There is no indication of sovereignty of some of the islands in the Amur and Ussori Rivers. Mr. (Aharov) says it will take up to five years before the demarcation job is finished.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Address to Women Highlights 'Difficult' Times

LD0303173093 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1551 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] As we have already reported, President Yeltsin received women in the Kremlin today. Our correspondent Vladimir Mikhaylenko, who has just come back to our office, will describe this event in greater detail:

In my view, the gilded decorations of the Yekaterinskiy Hall of the Great Kremlin hall were today enlivened by delicate wafting of fine perfumes and the agreeable faces of the better half of mankind, as well as by the circumstances of the event. The host was smart and gallant, but immediately after his greetings marking women's day [8 March], he began to speak about his greatest concerns and the concerns of his guests and what concerns us all at present. Here is an excerpt of what was said. It was, as I have already said, preceded by greetings on the occasion of 8 March—the International Women's Day.

[Begin Yeltsin recording] At present, on the eve of the Congress, I have numerous daily meetings with various political parties, public organizations, associations, and so forth. At present you, women, constitute a major political force in society and this aspect also forms part of this program of political consultations before the Congress, so that we are not all of us torn asunder at the Congress. This can happen, if the Congress fails to go along with the first, second, third, or fourth solution the president has put forward. In such an eventuality, a certain faction would come to power and then Russia would be torn to shreds. It would mean that between 50 and 60 principalities would fight it out among themselves.

It would be a war for hundreds of years to come. You, women, are people who are always in a more conciliatory frame of mind. You always conciliate, whether in family or workplace quarrels. Accordingly, if such situations emerge in society, you must make your weight felt, you must utter words of reconciliation. Reconciliation is a must. After all, we cannot go for the most extreme measures, as it were. If there is a vote against the referendum, although the Congress voted for it quite recently, then let us have the constitutional accord. If there is a no vote here, then let us have a Congress decision. If there is a no vote here, let us then have a presidential plebiscite to gauge the public opinion as concerns the vital issues the referendum was recommended to tackle.

The times are difficult. All the same, I do not think that at the congress the deputies, many of whom are conservatives, will risk steps that will entail Russia's disintegration. Russia's current grave condition can be likened, as you know, to those who are getting cured of their influenza: the temperature is at its highest, the condition is at its most serious, and then the crisis passes and convalescence begins. Well, I think that this is precisely what Russia is going through right now. The times are at a crisis—just before convalescence, a spiritual, economic, political, moral convalescence.

Do tell me something out of the ordinary about what the president must do and what women must do so that—economic issues apart—your life becomes more joyful. [laughter] It is up to me. As I have promised, I must see this work through to the end. I am confident I will manage to do that and that at long last we will have economic stabilization this year and that life will gradually return to normal. All the same, the first thing that was promised to all of you, as voters and as women—and it was promised you before the presidential elections and before the reforms—is that through reforms, empty shelves that used to be covered with paper alone would gradually fill with goods and foodstuffs. Well, they have appeared. So why are you so unfriendly? It is quite another matter that some people can afford them while others are unable to do so. The first task, however, is to saturate the market with goods and foodstuffs, and this has been done. I visit shops in Moscow and other towns and see for myself that as far as the question of prices is concerned, our forecasts have failed to come true. I have already spoken of this to you, and I did not say that the situation would improve in five or 10 years—no, it will be considerably quicker. It is one of my foremost tasks and currently it is the foremost task that you must be tasked with. [end recording]

Unfortunately, I am unaware of how the women replied to the president. The time set aside by the protocol, set aside with difficulty, unfortunately ran out too fast. I know that there was no women's rebellion, however, in the Kremlin today. As for the president's appeal to our women to take on the role of peacemakers, the appeal, naturally, is addressed not just to those who visited the Kremlin today.

Warns of Danger of 'Political Chaos'

OW0303163593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1549 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, Vladimir Shishlin, and Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin warned of the danger of political chaos and the territorial disintegration of Russia if the Congress of People's Deputies, scheduled to open March 10, does not approve the president's plan for dividing up constitutional powers. Appearing Wednesday in the Kremlin at a meeting with a delegation of women from executive and legislative organs of power from republics and regions in the Russian Federation, Yeltsin said that if the Congress rejects his version of the constitutional agreement, "Russia will break into 50-60 separate principalities, which could lead to "a war for hundreds of years to come."

Yeltsin said that his meetings with the country's political forces, of which both he and the women's organizations are a part, were an attempt to avoid such a turn of events at the Congress and in the country. "Women always make peace," he said, urging the women at the meeting to help smooth over this difficult period in Russian history.

Yeltsin said that in the upcoming days he plans to meet with representatives of parliamentary factions. The president believes that even the conservative deputies will not choose to "tear apart Russia" at the upcoming Congress. If the idea of a referendum and the constitutional agreement are rejected by the Congress, the president will reserve the right to conduct a plebiscite - a national survey of public opinion on proposals he would offer as alternatives to the referendum. (Earlier, at a meeting with representatives of the Democratic Choice association, Yeltsin announced his plans to formulate, in the near future, three short questions for a referendum, whose answers would clearly delineate the jurisdiction of the executive and legislative powers - IF [INTERFAX]).

Regarding domestic problems, the president said that the first part of the transition to a free market had been made - the saturation of kiosks and shops with goods. He admitted that he had been mistaken in his predictions regarding the time frames for price stabilizations, saying his miscalculation was caused "by the uniqueness" of Russia's methods for crossing over to a free market. The head of state is certain there is potential for economic stabilization as early as this year. The success of reforms, he feels, will be largely determined by the role women play in society, and their ability to adapt to new conditions. Announcing the signing of a decree on that same day, March 3, on the state's attitude toward the problems of women, Yeltsin said it would be naive to expect fundamental changes in this area, especially since women hold key posts in the state.

More on Security Meeting; Grachev Denies Coup Preparation

PM0303163193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Mar 93 pp 1, 2

[Report by Vasiliy Kononenko and Viktor Litovkin: "Russia's Generals Expect Resolute Actions by the President To Overcome the Crisis"]

[Text] A session of Russia's Security Council, chaired by B. Yeltsin, was held in the Kremlin 3 March. In addition to Council members attending the session—Yu. Skokov, S. Shakhray, A. Kozyrev, N. Fedorov, P. Grachev, V. Barannikov, V. Yerin, and Ye. Primakov—commanders of Russia's military districts and branches of forces were also present in the hall. The president noted that he believes their presence to be expedient in view of the adoption of a decision on military doctrine, which is an important item on the agenda. But there is evidently another reason. The political and military situation in some of Russia's regions is very contradictory, and it is impossible to oversee everything from Moscow. At the same time, the commanders' participation in the elaboration of a general action program renders them fully responsible for the consequences. Judging by everything, it is important for the president to know the ideas and moods prevailing among military commanders.

In his introductory speech, the president emphasized that the Security Council always examines questions of special importance for Russia. Today they include the question of military doctrine. Our country, he went on, urgently needs such a doctrine and, to be honest, any further delay in its adoption is simply no longer permissible.

Another important item on the agenda, the president said, concerns the basic provisions of the concept of Russia's foreign policy. This is also a fundamental question. Until we obtain a clear-cut answer to it, we will be unable to ensure the systematic nature of our state's activity—let alone realizing Russia's national interests in the foreign policy sphere. Delays with both the military doctrine and the elaboration of the foreign policy concept directly promote the destabilization of the situation in Russia and give rise to numerous political speculations by diverse political forces. The danger lies in the fact that, in addition to criticizing individual steps taken by the leadership, they increasingly often talk about the expediency of strategic goals. Until we have a properly structured concept of military doctrine and foreign policy activity, we will be forced to take defensive positions. Russia's Armed Forces have never before been in such a position, taking only a defensive stance, B. Yeltsin said. The military were quick to respond: [Remarks like] "Correct," "It is long overdue" could be heard in the hall.

It is necessary to cut the ground from under the feet of those who take advantage of the time to attain political goals, to stand firm for the sake of defending democracy and Russia's interests, the president went on. Another question we must examine is the appeal by the Cossacks. A complex question, and when making a decision on it we must recall all aspects of the life of this category of people and the development of the situation in regions which are densely inhabited by them, the need to restore historical justice. We must also take into account the question of consolidating stability and security in Russia.

Following the conclusion of the Security Council session, B. Yeltsin met with the leadership of the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense and General Staff. During the meeting, the military expressed concern over the development of the political crisis in the country and demanded of the president resolute actions to overcome it.

On his return from the Security Council session, Army General Pavel Grachev, Russia's defense minister, convened an urgent [ekstrennaya] press conference for Russian journalists. He announced that rumors about preparations for a military coup d'etat are circulating in Moscow in light of the arrival of commanders of groups of forces, military districts, fleets, and branches and categories of troops in the capital.

These rumors, Grachev said, are totally groundless. The commanders came here to attend the Council's session at my request and with permission from the Security Council secretary. Since the question of Russia's military doctrine was to be raised there, it should have naturally been discussed in the military's presence. And this is what happened. The generals and admirals who addressed the Council submitted specific proposals for the military doctrine being elaborated, and many of them were adopted.

The question of Cossack formations in the Russian Army was also discussed there, at the Security Council session. The minister of defense said that a final decision has not yet been made, there are several approaches toward this question's solution. Further work will be done on them.

During the press conference the minister accused the "Reforms in the Army" group of deputies of whipping up the destabilizing situation in the Armed Forces. All their conclusions, aired at parliamentary hearings, are at odds with the real state of affairs, Grachev said, and have caused indignation among the troops. We receive no specific assistance from these people, he noted. And yet, this is what the Army needs more than anything else.

Answering the IZVESTIYA correspondent's question about the course of negotiations with the Ukrainian delegation on the strategic forces stationed on that country's territory, he said that the last two days have seen no substantial changes for the better. Moreover, some spokesmen of the Ukrainian delegation have been heard to say that nuclear arms in Ukraine are its property.

If this continues in the future, the minister said, and we fail to reach specific agreement on the state to which these weapons belong, I will be forced to make a statement explaining the real technical condition of nuclear weapons in Ukraine and the situation regarding their safety, and will also be forced to declare Russia's repudiation of any responsibility for their future.

Further Grachev Remarks

OW0303170593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1643 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev told journalists after the Security Council had met Wednesday [3 March] that both his speech and that of Yuriy Skokov, the council's secretary, on the main political aspects of Russia's military doctrine had been approved in principle. However these will undergo a two-week review at the request of President Boris Yeltsin and be approved in full at the next session of the Security Council.

The minister stressed in particular that this issue could not be passed without contributions from the military. He considered it essential to establish this fact in order to "quell any fabrications or rumors which circulate with great speed when the army is under discussion." He said that the commanders of military regions, fleets and troop divisions have arrived in Moscow in order to discuss the military doctrine at the Security Council.

The minister informed journalists further that "no marked progress in recognizing Russia as the sole nuclear power had been made" at the nuclear arms talks between Russia and Ukraine in Moscow. He confirmed his intention to make a statement which, in his view, would "cast light on the technical condition of nuclear weapons and on the situation faced by strategic missile forces on Ukrainian territory" in the event the ownership of weapons located on the republic's territory was not decided at this round of talks. "I will raise this issue right up to the point when Russia's responsibility for guaranteeing nuclear safety on Ukrainian soil is removed.

Grachev also announced that a meeting had taken place between Russian generals in Moscow Wednesday on progress in military reform. He described a statement by the parliamentary Military Reform group that military reform was failing and that corruption and theft among troops were on the increase as "not corresponding to the true state of affairs."

A final decision on Russia contributing to humanitarian aid deliveries by parachute to Bosnia would soon be made, the minister said.

Army Chiefs Urge 'Resolute Measures'

LD0303185993 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 3 Mar 93

[from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Here is a news item reporting that immediately after the session of the Russian Security Council, representatives of the Russian Army high command expressed their concern to the Russian president about the deepening political crisis in the country and called on him to take resolute measures to overcome the paralysis of power.

More on Grachev's 2 Mar Press Conference

PM0403092793 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Mar 93 pp 1, 3

[Anatoliy Dokuchayev report: "It Will Be Dangerous If the Army Splits and Finds Itself on Different Sides of the Barricades"]

[Text] As has already been reported, Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation minister of defense, met with Russian journalists 2 March during a regular "press hour."

The defense minister shared his impressions from his trip to the North Caucasus Military District troops, and spoke about the enormous work being carried out to reform the district. Answering a question put to him by your KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent, he noted that, in connection with changes in the geopolitical and geostrategic situation, the North Caucasus Military District is and will remain one of the main Russian districts. Highly mobile troops are deployed in the North Caucasus Military District. Thus the foundation for the creation of mobile forces—about which much has been said—has been laid. Two airborne brigades and two motorized rifle brigades have been formed, and another one is in the process of being formed on the district's territory, while an airborne division and some military transport aviation units are being withdrawn. Units and subunits of the 19th Separate Air Defense Army, which was deployed in the Transcaucasus, are now being stationed on the district's territory. Individual sectors are being covered by tactical air defense systems—mobile antiaircraft missile systems. The defense minister broached the subject of the formation of operational-strategic territorial commands in areas like the North Caucasus Military District, to which all troops stationed in the region would be subordinate, saying that this will not be out of the question in the future.

Touching on the subject of his trip to units of the Group of Russian Forces in the Transcaucasus, in particular those stationed in Abkhazia and Ajaria, the defense minister said that meetings with the personnel have shown that people have a correct understanding of the tasks facing them. They are prepared to stay in Georgia until the package of documents on the withdrawal of Russian troops from the Transcaucasus is finalized at government level. Talks between Russia and Georgia are going on.

Discussing the actions of political forces, movements, and factions trying to influence the Army, the minister of defense stated that the Army must not, and, while the present leadership is at the helm, will not sway either to the right or to the left. The Army will stay in the center, and it will only implement laws and the Constitution. It will be very dangerous if the army splits and finds itself on different sides of the barricades.

Answering a question about his personal attitude toward the upcoming referendum, Army Gen. Grachev said that it all depends on what questions will be submitted for discussion, and how they will be worded.

The question of monitoring [kontrol] the strategic nuclear weapons sited on Ukraine's territory was broached at the press conference. Despite the fact that an agreement on putting into effect material-technical backup and carrying out work on guarantee-related and ownership-related supervision of the maintenance of Strategic Nuclear Forces missile systems by Russia was reached 15 January of this year between Kiev and Moscow, the problem of monitoring remains acute. The minister noted that he will make a statement to the press if the second round of Russian-Ukrainian talks on strategic forces, which started 2 March, does not result in anything positive.

At the press conference, the defense minister commented on the fact that a meeting was held 20 February on the initiative of the Union of Officers. He noted that it was mainly representatives of various political parties and movements who took part in it, and even people who had been discharged to the reserve for various reasons—such as age, the desire not perform service, and so on. They included people who were discharged because they had not fulfilled the requirements of the Law "On Defense" and other legislative and legal acts on the Armed Forces adopted by the Supreme Soviet, the minister said.

Army Gen. Grachev rejected information cited at the meeting to the effect that apparently over 30,000 officers have been discharged from the Army by the minister for these reasons. "I have personally discharged a total of three men from the Armed Forces for nonfulfillment of the laws," he reported to journalists.

Conferences of representatives and chairmen of Officers' Assemblies will be held 4 and 5 March in military districts, groups of forces, fleets, and in separate armies. Representatives of the Ministry of Defense and the General Staff have already left for various regions. The minister also spoke of his own plans. On 4 March he plans to work with the Moscow Military District Troops. And it is being proposed that a conference of representatives of Officers' Assemblies at large units, units, and all training establishments sited on the territory of the Moscow Military District, be held 5 March.

Journalists asked whether the deputies' groups formed in parliament are of help to the Ministry of Defense; they frequently carry out various demarches with respect to the military department, for example, the "Reform of the Army" group headed by Vitaliy Urazhtsev. Army Gen. Grachev noted that a great deal of criticism is coming from this group, and indeed unfounded criticism, but that no constructive proposals are being made. Until quite recently, Deputy Vitaliy Urazhtsev appeared frequently in the press, saying that the course chosen by the leadership of the Armed Forces is correct and that reforms are going on in the Army. Today he is saying the opposite. According to the minister of defense, this has not been caused by the reforms being discontinued. Earlier, Vitaliy Urazhtsev had proposed several dozen officers for appointment to key posts in the Armed Forces. The minister's advisers appointed only three to the posts. However, even these soon had to be discharged for nonprofessionalism. The minister did not fulfill the request by the people's deputy to provide him with a comfortable apartment and garden from the Ministry of Defense, either; there was no basis for this. After this, Urazhtsev resumed his criticism of the Army.

As we know, a tragedy has occurred in the training subunits of the Pacific Fleet, stationed on the island of Russkiy, because of the outbreak of acute intestinal illness. Army Gen. Grachev said that criminal proceedings have been instituted in respect of this incident, and representatives of the Prosecutor's Office are working on the island, as well as a group of officers and generals from the Ministry of Defense, headed by Deputy Minister Colonel General Vladimir Toporov. An Armed Forces Main Military-Medical Directorate commission was working on the island previously.

The minister of defense named the main reasons for the tragedy. The first was the induction of young men of insufficient body weight. As of 15 February, 5,200 underweight young men had been drafted. According to the minister, the draft commissions which are now being formed by the leadership of oblasts, krays, and regions must assume responsibility for this. The second reason for the tragedy was the interruptions in the supply of heat and food to the servicemen, caused by limited supplies of fuel and food. The men also fell ill because of the "low level of supervision [kontrol] by the fleet command and military-medical institutions of various ranks, starting with the Main Military-Medical Directorate," which contributed to the tragedy, and because of the remoteness of the island from the fleet's main base, which is in Vladivostok.

Yeltsin Warns Congress Against 'Treason'

MK0303133093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Mar 93 p 1

[Aleksandr Nadzharov report: "President Ready for Decisive Action If Parliament Continues Its Line Toward Confrontation"]

[Text] Yesterday Boris Yeltsin spoke in favor of concluding a constitutional agreement and holding a referendum and, should the congress reject both, firmly exercising his presidential powers. On the same day in an interview with PRAVDA the Russian president in fact expressed his willingness to collaborate with the moderate section of the Communist Party.

"I did not swear loyalty to this Constitution," Boris Yeltsin stated yesterday, addressing a meeting with participants in the Democratic Choice movement, referring to the numerous amendments introduced into it by the two latest deputies' congresses that upset the balance of powers. Thus the president indicated the existence of a constitutional crisis in the country. The same point was made by some participants in the meeting in conversation with a NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent.

Sergey Filatov: The Supreme Soviet will make a decision to call a session of the Congress of People's Deputies, in all likelihood on 10 March. There is bound to be a struggle over the agenda. We must get ready. A forecast? I think that agreement should be sought.

Galina Starovoytova: Agreement can be reached with those who observe agreements. Can I be sure that Ruslan Khasbulatov will do that? That's the whole point—I can't. A man who talks so much about ethical issues.... This must be a case of a person talking too much about his own problems.

Vasiliy Selyunin: I am not expecting anything terrible to happen in the near term. Neither, however, will agreement be reached. I mean between the powers that be—the Congress and the president. Incidentally, nobody will be defending this Supreme Soviet or this Congress as though it were a life and death matter. Especially after that scandal over the deputies' apartments. No doubt, these people will pass a decision to ban the referendum—in order to retain in the Constitution the article about the power of the soviets. The effect will be the same as that which Yeltsin achieved when Gorbachev tried in every way to block his presidency. So, when the Congress and the Supreme Soviet do all this, people will get angry and.... After all, the only thing we fear is that people may not turn out for the referendum. Now that the deputies have made another big mistake of this kind, however, actually more people are bound to turn out.

Gavriil Popov: I think that some agreement will be achieved in the end. Other options hold out too little security for the conflicting forces. Insofar as agreement is concerned, it takes more than just a word of honor from Ruslan Imranovich [Khasbulatov]. The forces now at work do not generally have much stability or influence in society. Therefore this agreement cannot be envisioned merely as agreement among the authorities—a very intricate mechanism of social actions is involved here. It also requires the agreement of movements and parties and agreement with the Russian autonomous regions and among the regional structures. If this system of agreements is secured, then we shall overcome the crisis. Agreements just at the top will not solve anything. [Popov ends]

The members of the organizations, movements, parties and parliamentary factions affiliated with Democratic Choice that took part in this 90-minute meeting with the president saw it as probably the most crucial moment in the history of Russian democracy. The president was immediately given to understand that it was here that he could count on the most vigorous support. At the same time, direct and harsh words toward him were not slow in coming. The democrats, however, also applied those words to themselves, since in their opinion their own mistakes, too, contributed to the present crisis in power. As a result, more than just time has been lost. The supporters of reforms have lost the Supreme Soviet and the Congress. What has remained on the democrats' side is only the people on the ladder of the executive branch, which in fact the opposing forces are trying to weaken.

True, there have also been some success stories. These include the consolidation of 81 parties, movements, and even trade unions around the idea of a referendum or a constitutional assembly. Democratic Choice regards as its second achievement the creation of its headquarters "at the level of the president's administration," which, according to one of the movement's leaders, can become the foundation for an offensive campaign. Third, dialogue has begun with all the major political blocs, including Civic Union and Russian Unity. Incidentally, a general roundtable meeting has been set for 5 March. The democrats have set only one preliminary condition—stay within the framework of peaceful development.

During the meeting the president was reminded that he needed to display "extreme wisdom and flexibility in pursuing his political course."

For his part, Boris Yeltsin said in fairly straightforward terms what he was expecting from his supporters. Here are the highlights of his statement.

On the "Current Situation"

Today an economic crisis has become interlocked with a constitutional and political crisis. This means we can expect conservative forces to come to power via the Congress at any moment, which would mean a complete rolling back and abandonment of reforms. It would mean the undoing of all our democratic gains.

On the Election of the President

It is necessary to hold consultations with other organizations, movements, and political parties. The democrats will not be able to pull this heavy cart on their own. However, in so doing the ultra- right and ultra-left will of course have to be discarded.

On the Congress

Apparently, it will take place on 10 March. Although its agenda will not be discussed until Thursday, I have provisional agreement with the Supreme Soviet chairman that it will feature only one item—on a referendum or constitutional agreement. Anything can be expected here. We know only too well what our Congress is like: They will start "bargaining" at the microphones, and any question could be brought up. At that point the worst could happen, and no way must it be allowed to happen.

On Political Consultations

This is why I have been holding political consultations all these past days, sometimes several times a day. They will continue. I should like to ask you not just to state your opinion. I would couch the question in tougher terms. The present time is such that to agree on something verbally and then vote otherwise at the Congress is treason, pure and simple.

On the Referendum

The choice is this. If a referendum is to be held, then within a couple of days I will formulate three perfectly clear and direct questions. Incidentally, the Supreme Soviet will definitely not accept them, and then they will figure as alternative questions. Actually, this does not matter, since the people will vote on them anyway. Now, what should be done if the referendum plan does not make it though Congress and the latest agreement is canceled out? Although it is surprising—after all, there was a conciliation commission, with everybody agreeing unanimously, that they adopted the Congress resolution, and after that began to destroy that agreement in parts and as a whole.

On a Constitutional Agreement

It is a way out. This agreement, however, should be broader than the one adopted at the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies. We want to go back to the April 1992 Constitution. Since then 320 amendments have been made, which have completely upset the balance of powers. I did not swear loyalty to that Constitution as amended and revised by the Sixth and the Seventh Congresses. The soviets have become omnipotent. It must be stated clearly that this cannot be allowed. We are for a civilized path of development, for a balance between all the branches of power—which is precisely what is provided for under the presidential draft agreement submitted to the Supreme Soviet. I agreed with Khasbulatov to exchange such drafts, but so far I have received nothing from him. If our version is approved at the Congress, that will be a way out of the constitutional and political impasse.

What Will Happen If the Constitutional Agreement Does Not Make It Through the Congress

In that case the Congress could adopt a resolution that will divest the agreement of two-thirds of its content. After that there will be no way out of the constitutional and political crisis. The president, however, still has something in reserve. He will have to appeal directly to the people, to elicit the opinion of the voters. The president does have this right. That would be a kind of referendum, but without the Supreme Soviet. The same polling stations could be used to hold it. Perhaps it would yield little result constitutionally, but everything would be clear to everybody just the same.

There is also the final option, about which I do not want to say anything, the president said. I hope that things will not come to that point, and I would not like that to happen. The Constitution must be respected, but if the conservatives resort to extreme measures in order to destroy Russia, then for the sake of saving it, for the sake of salvaging democracy, for the sake of salvaging the reforms.... Other ways must be found.

As he left the building after the meeting, the president was asked whether he would have enough strength for decisive action if it was called for. He replied briefly: "I am a brave man."

Yeltsin Official Says Congress Cannot Cancel Referendum

LD0303145493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1426 GMT 3 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Podyapolskiy]

[Text] Moscow March 3 TASS—"The Congress of People's Deputies is not empowered to adopt a resolution on the cancellation of the referendum, its postponement or replacement by any other form expressing the will of the people," Anatoliy Sliva, deputy chief of the Russian president's department for legal issues, said at a meeting with journalists on Wednesday. Sliva made his assessment of the situation around the nationwide referendum in terms of law.

According to Sliva, by voting for a referendum on basic provisions of the new constitution, the congress has submitted this important problem to people's consideration. From this moment and until the referendum is held and its results are announced, the people become the only subject of law empowered to resolve problems of the new constitution.

"The congress has committed itself by its own resolution and should act in compliance with it," Sliva emphasised. "To cancel the referendum means to limit the people's right to express its will, which is fraught with going beyond legal space," Sliva said.

"If the Russian parliament fails to approve the text of the draft constitution submitted to the referendum, the Russian president and the Constitutional Court are entitled to do it," Sliva said. He described the activities of people's deputies aimed against the referendum as anti-constitutional. Sliva made a reference to international practice saying that no incidents of cancellation of scheduled referendums were ever reported.

Asked by journalists to comment on a plan to go ahead with the referendum announced by the Russian president on Monday, Sliva said that he would refrain from making a legal assessment of political statements, admitting that they "may be too emotional". Sliva pointed out that the president is concerned about the developments and is determined to act as a guarantor of the constitution.

Rutskoy's Plan To Overcome Constitutional Crisis Outlined

MK0303150093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Mar 93 p 1

[Unattributed report under "Document" rubric: "Aleksandr Rutskoy's Plan. In His Address to the Civic Union Congress the Vice President Outlines His Plan for Leading Russia Out of the Constitutional Crisis"; date not given]

[Text] Politicians of all hues are now effusively speaking about what constitutional form the Russian state should take—whether it should be presidential or parliamentary. I view this as just an attempt by some people to stay in politics by any means, even at the expense of humiliating people and breaking up the country. Russia's historical experience, its past and its present, prove one thing—the Russian state must have a strong president and a strong parliament that equally respect the law and the Constitution.

Let us think: What is it that constitutes society's central interest? I can say with assurance that it is stability and an easing of the hardships of everyday life, Russia's unity and the securing of its proper place in the world. Instead, the theme of a referendum, the idea of a new "constituent assembly" are being imposed on us as virtually a matter of life and death. Now it is clear to every one that the president and the Congress have been set on a collision course by those who can not imagine any other existence for themselves except that of confrontation and the struggle of all against all. At the same time, they are not embarrassed to claim to be genuine democrats and holy custodians of democratic reform values.

All this we had already been through. And many times at that. Russia is fed up with revolution. What we need now is not revolutions, but an evolution of people's minds and relations in society.

Do mechanisms that provide for such an evolution exist? Yes, they do, and the president has formulated the basic idea in his speech. I would like to dwell on it in more detail.

Constructive collaboration among all the branches of power with the aim of leading Russia out of the economic crisis and avoiding being drawn further into constitutional crisis could be achieved by enacting a Law on Authority in the Russian Federation for a transition period. It should reflect the rights and powers of the Supreme Soviet and specify sanctions with respect to its observance. Its implementation could be guaranteed by a Council of the Federation headed by the president and the Russian Supreme Soviet chairman as well as by the Constitutional Court. The Council of the Federation could include representatives of the executive branch and the soviets of the republics, krays, and oblasts that are subjects of the Russian Federation. Coupled with the Constitutional Commission, this body could become the prototype of a constitutional assembly charged with drawing up and adopting Russia's new constitution. This would obviate the need for a referendum and an extraordinary congress. The law itself could be enacted at a regular Congress of People's Deputies, say, this spring, which could also consider a program of anticrisis measures for the Russian economy.

Those are the outlines of an idea for constitutional reconciliation. The country could finally use the ensuing respite to concentrate all its forces and resources to carry through economic reform.

Official Says New Constitution May End Crisis

LD0303212393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2105 GMT 3 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow March 3 TASS—The constitutional crisis in Russia will most likely assume a protracted form and may be resolved only by adopting a new constitution, said Vladimir Savelyev, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry department for relations with the parliament, political parties and public organisations.

Speaking at a news conference in Moscow on Wednesday, Savelyev stressed the need to use civilised methods to solve the constitutional crisis.

Savelyev believes the Russian Parliament should ratify the CIS charter to set an example for other CIS states and approve president Boris Yeltsin's proposals on Russia's participation in peace-keeping operations in Tajikistan.

The department headed by Savelyev was established in February 1992 to ensure an interaction between the Foreign Ministry, the parliament, political parties and public organisations.

Shakhray Views Chances for Referendum

LD0403040693 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0316 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] The date of the referendum is still unclear, despite the fact that the previous congress set it very clearly: 11 April. In the words of Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray, the congress and parliament are playing a clever game on this issue.

[Begin Shakhray recording] Formally, power is with the people until the referendum renders a result. And it is not by chance that there is no provision in clause 104 for the congress to cancel a referendum. The congress cannot cancel the referendum if we wish to remain within the bounds of the law. Neither can the president cancel it, nobody can. Some result has to come from the referendum. [end recording]

Nonetheless, Sergey Shakhray expressed doubt as to whether the referendum will really be held.

[Begin Shakhray recording] The first meeting of the electoral commission for the referendum is set for 12 March. The commission on holding the referendum has not met once since December, and 12 March will already be one day past the date by which the questions for the ballot must by law be announced. The Supreme Soviet commission has wrecked the referendum on a technicality. So the congress will nonetheless decide not to cancel but to postpone the referendum, probably without naming the date.

What can the president do in this case? Not much choice, as they say. If the congress does not confirm any agreement, a poll of the population will take place. The results of the poll, strictly speaking, will not have legal force, but they will be very important as a point of political influence. The poll itself, and its result, still leave space for events to develop peacefully. [end recording]

Stankevich Outlines Yeltsin's 'Battle Plan'

MK0303085093 Moscow THE MOSCOW TIMES in English 1 Mar 93 p 6

[By David Filipov: "Adviser Outlines Yeltsin's Political Battle Plan"]

[Text] When President Boris Yeltsin climbed atop a tank in August 1991, he had a less difficult dilemma than in his current power struggle with the Russian legislature.

That is no mere speculation. The president's own adviser, Sergey Stankevich, says so.

"Then, the stakes were clear and Yeltsin could show his best qualities," Stankevich said in an interview in his spacious office in the Kremlin last week. "Now there is a murky conflict."

Today, the president's enemy is a national legislature with claim to supremacy in Russia that, because of contradictions in the existing constitution, is every bit as legitimate as Yeltsin's.

This realization has led the president to back off from the confrontational stance he took last December when he urged the formation of a presidential party. At the time he threatened to impose presidential rule and called for a referendum that would let the people decide, once and for all, who was in charge.

Had Yeltsin continued such a confrontational strategy it would have led to a "quick death" for the president, Stankevich said.

A prominent democrat who has an audience with Yeltsin several times a week, Stankevich spelled out what he called the president's newer "pragmatic" strategy.

To avoid the potentially divisive consequences of holding a referendum, Yeltsin 10 days ago proposed working out a constitutional agreement with parliament that would define the division of powers until a new constitution was adopted.

The president has since offered a proposed agreement, in which he promised to stop circumventing the legislature by issuing decrees—something for which the mainly conservative deputies have long attacked him.

In return for Yeltsin's concessions, he wants parliament to agree to refrain from making changes to the current constitution aimed at whittling away at the president's power.

To approve the final deal Yeltsin has offered to call the Congress of People's Deputies—which he once threatened to dissolve—for a special one-day session. The trouble is that parliament has shown little interest in striking a deal with Yeltsin, who is continuing with plans to call a referendum, in case no agreement can be reached.

Stankevich acknowledged that in the current political crisis, there is a risk in trying to cut a deal with the Congress at all.

"If they decide to cancel the referendum and leave everything the way it is, that would be a new, dangerous source of destabilization," he said.

Stankevich said the Congress could be "forced" to approve a deal is by using pressure from the leaders of the regions and autonomous republics that make up the Russian Federation [sentence as published].

He said that the president's recent meetings with regional leaders had shown that they were ready to support such an initiative.

"They are also tired of the mess in Moscow, the instability of the powers in Moscow," Stankevich said. "It would be extremely difficult for the Congress to disapprove of a draft approved by the members of the federations."

But Stankevich said that regional leaders were finding that they cannot use their new powers because of the instability in Moscow, which has scared off foreign investors and all but prohibited using their export rights.

"The new tendency is not to try to receive something, but to help end the conflict in Moscow," he said.

How clear the power struggle will turn out is unclear, and Stankevich himself expressed doubt whether the constitutional agreement will ever be reached. But the 38-year-old Kremlin adviser said there is still room for compromise in a separate but perhaps more important area, namely stabilizing the economy by coordinating efforts to fight inflation.

"This is not a struggle for power, it is a struggle against inflation," Stankevich said. "This is an important problem that should unite the efforts of the government and parliament."

Cabinet members have urged legislators not to make "inflationary" decisions, such as a parliamentary resolution in January to raise pensions. Legislators fear the effects of 2,600 percent annual inflation will have on the growing numbers of Russia's poor.

Stankevich said the president could solve this impasse by proposing that parliament get cabinet approval for any major budget increases. In return, the government would make certain concessions on matters like pensions.

The same approach could be used with the Central Bank, having it approve any major credit emissions with the cabinet. This approach contrasts with Yeltsin's attempts late last year to keep parliament out of the management of the economy, and to bring the Central Bank under the control of his cabinet.

Stankevich said the existence of such compromise solutions meant that the fear, voiced by many legislators, that Russia was facing a Soviet-style breakup, is exaggerated.

"There are threats to Russian territorial integrity in Tatarstan and the Chechenya," he acknowledged, naming the two regions that had ceased to cooperate with Moscow. "But to say that Russia is doomed to the fate of the Soviet Union is incorrect." The president's political adviser was equally optimistic about Yeltsin's ability to maneuver out of his current dilemma.

"I think his potential as a president and a political leader is far from exhausted," he said. "There is no reason to say that all is lost."

Yeltsin's Overture to Civic Union First Sign of New Strategy

PM0203151393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Mar 93 p 1

[Sergey Chugayev report: "Yeltsin Urges All Reformist Forces To Reach Accord"]

[Text] The Russian president's unscheduled vacation ended with one of the most significant recent political events—his speech at a congress of the "Civic Union" bloc. By all accounts the elaboration of an internal political strategy, which required a 12-day time-out, is complete and its implementation has begun.

This strategy's essence, it can be concluded even now on the basis of B. Yeltsin's speech at the "Civic Union" forum, is the desire to unite all—not only openly reformist but also potentially reformist—political forces in the face of a sharp increase in the activeness of procommunist, antireformist forces. At the same time it is already possible to talk about the reverse process. The same threat is prompting the reforms' supporters to unite around the president.

On the whole Yeltsin's decision to extend his hand toward "Civic Union" cannot be viewed as anything but correct. Just like any decision aimed at reaching national accord and opposing an attack of reaction. Especially as resuming the dialogue, which was begun on the eve of the Seventh Congress and broken off because of both sides' not altogether smart actions, now looks like maybe the only chance of preserving Russia's movement in the direction of democratic reforms by legal and constitutional means.

Although the very fact that Yeltsin spoke at the "Civic Union" forum is highly significant, it follows from the congress results and the comments by its participants that the event's results should not be overestimated at the moment. The positions of Yeltsin and the "Civic Union" remain different on such questions as the holding of a referendum and simultaneous early elections of the president and parliament. At the same time the obvious rapprochement between the president and vice president is revealing. Speaking at the congress, A. Rutskoy supported, in particular, Yeltsin's idea concerning the need to adopt a law on power in the transitional period and concerning the possibility that the Federation Council headed by the president and the chairman of parliament could be the guarantor of its fulfillment.

But the main subject of the talks, which, it was announced, will be continued between the president and "Civic Union" leaders, will undoubtedly be the future of the government and the future of economic reforms. Judging from the "Civic Union" leaders' comments, they intend to insist on substantial changes in the cabinet of ministers. Rutskoy expressed himself even more forcefully on this subject, stating: "It must now be a question not of correcting the economic course, the entire course must be radically changed." The change of course, according to Rutskoy, should lead "to an improvement in the manageability of the national economy and should increase the extent to which the economy is regulated by the state."

It is impossible not to agree with the opinion of the president's press secretary that it would be beneficial to society if the "Civic Union's" solid center potential united with such a powerful stabilization factor as the president. For this reason it is so important that both the president and "Civic Union" leaders bear in mind during further consultations the experience of the talks on the eve of the seventh congress and that, having set themselves reasonable aims, they reach a reasonable compromise.

The breakdown of the talks between the president and "Civic Union" leaders on the eve of the Seventh Congress in many respects promoted the abrupt outbreak of the constitutional crisis. But now the president is talking bluntly of the danger of an explosion of counterrevolution.

Renewal Union's First Congress Reported

MK0303125693 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 2 Feb 93 p 4

[Pavel Zakharov article: "'Elite' Makes a Bid for Power"]

[Excerpt] Over the weekend the House of Unions was occupied by an "influential political force" —the so-called centrists. On Saturday at the Oktyabrskiy Hall the all-Russia union Obnovleniye [Renewal] held its congress, and on the following day the magnificent Hall of Columns was taken over by Civic Union for a meeting graced by the presence of the president and the vice president, his perennial opponent. The latter, incidentally, speaking after Boris Yeltsin, missed no opportunity to reproach the president over his team of irresponsible reformers, which considerably pleased those present.

So, on Saturday, 27 February, the All-Russia Union Obnovleniye held its first congress. Upon registration, the delegates and guests were issued a bulky packet of documents: seven (!) draft programs (against all the eventualities), a charter, a resolution, a declaration, a short report, and yet another statement or resolution entitled "On the Constitutional Process and Referendum."

This abundance and variety of paperwork is supposed to testify, in the expression of Professor I. Diskin, one of the main authors of the economic part, if not to the quality then at least to the quantity of the 'intellectual capacity' of Obnovleniye supporters. After a break, however, when the hall was visibly more empty, for some reason or other many folders were left lying on the chairs, to the obvious annoyance of the cleaning ladies. Well, that's usual with intellectuals: They have plenty of brains of their own and have no need of other people's brains....

What is this Obnovleniye union all about? It (again according to the self-description by some of the speakers and documents cited) is a party of the intellectual-competent-pragmatic-responsible elite occupying a centrist position and articulating the interests of people engaged in industry, entrepreneurship, and also in science. But this is just for a start. If elections are held, so party experts predict, the social base could become really massive and encompass all future voters.

The congress often heard the expression: "We are constructive centrists; we say 'yes' much more often than 'no.'" Nonetheless, it seemed to me that most of the speeches began precisely with the word 'no.' No—to the Gaydar reforms; no—to extremism from the right and left; no—to a constituent assembly; and of course, no—to a referendum.

Obnovleniye members admit that the present Constitution is imperfect. What, however, is it that they are most unhappy about? Apparently, about the fact that it does not separate powers between the two houses of the

Supreme Soviet; it does not clearly define the relations between the president and...the government; it predetermines an ineffectual Constitutional Court, and so on and so forth. At the same time not a word is spoken about the division of powers between the three branches—the representative, the executive, and the judicial—which the president has long been concerned about.

Nonetheless, the party believes that resolving the issue of the country's Fundamental Law in a referendum is at the very least a manifestation of political short-sightedness and incompetence. Its elite experts warn of the possible opposite outcome—that society could break up and the Federation disintegrate. Therefore it is necessary to preserve the status quo and not move an inch away from the much-revised and patched-up Constitution.

While rejecting the referendum, Obnovleniye at the same time is pushing the idea of holding early elections next spring. Moreover, both the representative and executive federal authorities must come up for election. Speakers, starting from keynote speaker A. Vladislavlev (A. Volskiy did not attend the congress owing, as it was said, to a bout of flu), gave much attention to the issue of the struggle for power, although Obnovleniye leaders themselves until very recently have kept quiet on that score, preferring to act behind the scenes, using their old links with "party comrades" from the CPSU, who retained influential positions in the ruling structures. With the departure of presidential chief of staff Yu. Petrov, however, apparently the time had come to declare resolutely and publicly their aspirations for power, which was exactly what was done at the congress.

Elections, according to the elite pragmatists, are an absolute must, since a single political force that can lead the country out of crisis has to come to power. The implication, of course, is that this single political force can only be themselves, the 'Obnovlentsy.' There is very little logic here but more than enough self-advertisement.

Concerning the existing authorities—it is primarily the presidency that is meant—some believe that it will soon collapse under the weight of its own contradictions, while others are convinced that is has collapsed already and that they, the 'Obnovlensty,' only have to stir themselves to stoop and pick it up. They are so confident (or maybe just trying to boost their confidence?) of their victory that they have put it on their agenda to start making up lists of candidates for future Russian organs of power. Indeed, elite pragmatists could not possibly indulge in spontaneity where cadre issues are concerned. Everything must be done in a substantiated and solid manner.

With great pride it was announced at the congress that 71 regions in Russia had sent their delegates. As became clear from conversations with delegates, however, the existence of the party's regional branches and their links among themselves and with the center posed very acute problems. In this respect Obnovleniye does not in any way stand out among a number of other large and tiny parties, so that Obnovleniye does not have a very big membership, let alone a popular base.

Anyway, do we really have that much of a "regional elite" on which the party ideologues can orient themselves? The self- confident statements that "we are supported by all the voters" are primarily based on the assumption of psychological instability in their political opponents and are in fact just bluff. Their entire history has led the Russian people to believe that any authority is out to steal from them, and therefore the chances are that they will perceive a new aspirant as just another hunter after the contents of their pockets.

The Obnovleniye program guidelines on economic and social issues and on regional policy contain mainly populist slogans. To back up this assertion let me quote an extract from its economic program: "Obnovleniye regards the implementation of reforms at the cost of the impoverishment of the people not only as a politically amoral but also as an unprofessional approach. Only growth in the real incomes of the broad strata of the population can ensure a level of demand for durable goods and housing that is necessary to sustain the development of domestic industry. It is impossible to overcome the production slump without maintaining a demand backed by cash."

Oh God, whoever wants to see the "impoverishment of the people"? Yeltsin? Chernomyrdin? But how can it be avoided? Are there any realistic mechanisms to move from an economy that is 80- to 90- percent militarized to a normal market economy that would at the same time also ensure "growth in the real incomes of the broad strata of the population"? Incidentally, nowhere among the multitude of their programs do the Obnovlentsy mention mechanisms for the implementation of the plans they have proclaimed. Perhaps one need not be an "elite pragmatist" to state peremptorily "what" has to be done. It is on everybody's lips. The eggheaded Obnovleniye members are keeping silent, however, about "how to" —in all likelihood because they, just like many others, simply do not know.

Obnovleniye's first congress gave special attention to relations with the Civic Union as its main political partner. They are united by common views on the substance of economic and political reforms now under way in Russia, but above all by a "constructive critique" of the government. [passage omitted]

Yeltsin Creates Federation, Nationality Affairs Committee

LD0303173393 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1430 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] Boris Yeltsin signed a decree on transforming the State Committee for Nationalities Policy into the State Committee for the Affairs of Federations and their

Nationalities [gosudarstvennyy komitet po delam federatsiy I ikh natsionalnostey] or Goskomfederatsiya Rossii. Sergey Shakhray has been appointed chairman of the Committee.

Yeltsin Appoints Filippov to New Analytical Center

MK0403101293 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Mar 93 p 2

[Indira Dunayeva report: "Deputy's New Post: An Auditing Firm Under the Presidential Council"]

[Text] President Yeltsin continues to enlist deputies loyal to him in executive power structures. A case in point is the 26 February appointment of Petr Filippov, people's deputy of the Russian Federation and a Democratic Russia leader, as head of an analytical center for social and economic policy attached to the Presidential Council.

According to Filippov, the newly created center will be concerned with analyzing implementation of the socioeconomic targets proclaimed by the president. "It is a kind of auditing firm attached to the Presidential Council," Petr Filippov explained. Council members can express their opinions, while the analytical center will be engaged in more profound studies in the spheres of budgetary policy, banking, and privatization. "In moving up the administrative ladder, information is often distorted, because each bureaucrat seeks to conceal the shortcomings that exist in the area of work entrusted to him," the chief-designate of the center says, "and therefore neither a minister nor the premier can be members of an analytical center by definition."

It will be recalled that Petr Filippov was chairman of a subcommittee of the Supreme Soviet committee on economic reform and took part in drawing up programs for privatization and the deepening of the reforms and laws "on stockholding companies," "on bankruptcy," and others.

Now instead of just one analytical center the president will have four. Therefore, democratic deputies have an incentive to invigorate their pro-Yeltsin activities.

Appoints Malyshev to Center

MK0403094593 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 3 Mar 93 p 9

[Andrey Bagrov report: "President Relies on Personnel of Proven Worth"]

[Text] The current restructuring of the presidential apparatus entails no personnel changes in most cases. This is confirmed by the appointment of Nikolay Malyshev as chief of the Analytical Center for Special Presidential Programs, as KOMMERSANT-DAILY reported yesterday.

Nikolay Malyshev is 48. He graduated from Taganrog Radio Engineering Institute in 1967. He is a doctor of technical sciences, a professor. From 1990 he was deputy chairman of the Russian Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Committee for Science and Higher Education. From 1991 he was a state adviser, and later a presidential adviser.

The appointment of Nikolay Malyshev as head of the Analytical Center for Special Presidential Programs is a natural step because hitherto, as an adviser, he has been in charge of informing the president on science, technology, and higher education matters. Now that the institution of presidential advisers has been abolished, he could very well have had an alternative continuation of his career as a consultant or adviser to one of the state structures. His relationship of trust with the president was a decisive factor in Malyshev's appointment as head of the Center.

The special presidential programs, on which work is only just starting, are expected to include projects to develop priority areas in science, technology, and transport. In addition, specialists of the Center will participate in the future in compiling presidential budget messages, and drafting proposals on state guarantees for foreign investments. Experts note, however, that despite this wide range of objectives the new presidential organization has actually been given no real levers to influence the situation, because its main duty will only be to compile analytical reports on the progress of particular projects.

The functions of the Analytical Center for Special Presidential Programs are:

—analysis of progress in priority fields of science, engineering, and technology in developed states;

—preparation of informational and analytical reviews on the progress of science and technology in this country;

—collaboration with government executive bodies in the development and implementation by them of measures relating to programs and projects.

Economic Issues

Government Presidium Discusses Privatization Issues

LD0403131993 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 4 Mar 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Members of the Presidium of the Russian Government today continued to discuss privatization issues. This discussion started at the last extended sitting of the Council of Ministers, and today a presidenial draft decree on state guarantees for and rights of citizens to participate in privatization was examined. During the time between the two sittings many amendments and addenda were introduced to it.

According to Anatoliy Chubays, this decree is needed in order that the program for privatization can continue, irrespective of when and in what form the Supreme Soviet will adopt this program. It was also noted that the decree in no way abolishes the laws and programs already adopted, but at the same time it specifies some of their provisions. According to the decree, not less than 29 percent of shares should be sold at voucher auctions in the first two months. Altogether, not less than 80 percent should be sold for vouchers. If leaders of enterprises which are to be turned into joint-stock companies do not provide all the necessary documents on privatization before 1 May, they may lose their jobs.

Despite a prior agreement, many proposals with regard to amending some provisions and formulations were also expressed today. The government's legal services made claims regarding the compliance of the draft decree with the current legislation. As a result, a decision was adopted to send the draft decree for the president's consideration, taking into account today's amendments.

Arms Export Official on Weapons Exports

OW0403113393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0858 GMT 4 Mar 93

[From the "Problems & Opinions" Feature—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Notwithstanding the Soviet Union's disintegration and radical changes on the world political scene, Russia remains one of the biggest manufacturer and supplier of modern types of arms. Sergey Karaoglanov, a major general, chairman of the OBORONEXPORT [defense export] foreign economic association, tells Interfax correspondent Boris Zverev of how things are in this sphere and of issues and priorities for Russian arms merchants.

"IF" [INTERFAX]: So what would be your assessment of the general situation on world arms markets?

KARAOGLANOV: First of all, there is bitter competition that is characteristic of the present market in this field. At the same time, I believe that the Russian Federation has a real opportunity to take a strong position on this market. And it is connected with the exports of all kinds of armaments: armor, artillery, aviation equipment, small arms. In other words, all kinds of arms except strategic weapons. What I'd like to emphasize in this connection is that most of the items of our military production are of world class craftsmanship, or even of a higher level than the models in the form of foreign analogs.

"IF": Which sales markets would you rate as the priority ones?

KARAOGLANOV: I guess that first of all the priority shall go to our traditional buyers. And here I would speak about India, China, Syria, Algiers and Eastern European countries. Naturally, we are not going to supply the military technology to those states on which world sanctions are imposed. Every care should be taken not to lose these old markets for arms. And the most essential thing here is not to indulge too much in abstract thinking, but rather attack economic problems, let us say, by arms buying countries' paying off debts to Russia.

It is my view that our policy is to go along these lines, without breaking our cooperation in the military and technological field, including the field of arms supply. Your pattern of behavior may be different: you may take a rigid position and not supply any arms until the suppliers pay off all their debts. As a result, they may not pay their debts and we will not furnish them with any equipment or material, and lose the markets this way. What we should strive at si to provide some sort of balance between the political and economic interest, with an eye of course on long term business prospects.

"IF": What are the countries that demand a priority settlement in payments?

KARAOGLANOV: Well, I guess it should be first of all, Syria and nations in Eastern Europe.

"IF": Don't you think that what we have been witnessing recently is a certain "departure" by Eastern European countries from Russia in favor of other arms suppliers?

KARAOGLANOV: No, I don't think so, For a few dozen years these countries were getting their arms from the USSR and now from Russia. You can't replace this material as a whole, for you are hooked on spare parts and to repair services. Change of traditional arms suppliers is a dear pleasure, especially, in the field of aviation. Anyway, any nation buying material is guided not only by political considerations, but also by economic interests. In addition, Russian arms, as it has already been said, are superior in quality.

"IF": From time to time the news media reports that some deals are made not for foreign currency but in exchange for some kinds of goods. Is it in line with the policy of your trade operations?

KARAOGLANOV: It is an absolutely normal thing to barter and this is not only Russia's policy, this is the way in many other countries as well. The way to settle your deal is stipulated in each particular case. Where the problem is, it is to agree which part of the deal should be in the form of barter, and which in the form of foreign currency. You should see the way foreign currency and goods are going to arrive, in a way you have to find out how profitable this barter deal is. There have been cases when deals have been clinched with supplies of bauxite, oil, oranges. Well, and why not? Isn't it in our interests? What you've got to do is to count the money. Take

Americans for example. They've sold some of their aircraft not for currency but for commodities.

"IF": Are barter deals likely to involve substantial losses for Russian exporters?

KARAOGLANOV: Sure thing. Now look, what the sales of aviation equipment means. It is a "tie-up" to NATO standards, to NATO ground monitoring and measuring equipment, and to the entire NATO system. It is no secret that for the U.S., Finland has always been of interest specifically as a market. However you look at it, we are competing with America, and there will always be a struggle for market share. When we were carrying out our trade relations with Finland, we often did it to our own detriment, since the Finnish goods were not always up to world quality standards. But arms deals are not only measured with the number of dollars gained. Our political interests are also in this direction, and these interests are entertained by any big powerful country.

"IF": Occasionally, one can hear reproaches addressed to OBORONEXPORT to the effect that enjoying a monopoly in the arms trade, the agency is not vigorous enough in its general operations.

KARAOGLANOV: I disagree with that.

Actually, the effectiveness of our operations not only enables us to compensate for all expenses, but brings in handsome profits to the nation.

As you understand, I am not in a position to give the exact figures, but recently the total amount of our arms shipments abroad has been cut by 3 or 4 times. We've lost quite a number of our regular customers, Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Yugoslavia, Warsaw Pact countries. And the cause of all of this are things of a political nature. And yet last year, though having fewer deliveries, we made foreign currency and commodity profits of about the same value as those in 1990 and 1991. And that shows that we have become better merchants and that when engaged in negotiations, we give priority to economic, commercial interests.

"IF": Is it possible to believe that you never make mistakes? For example, how can one estimate the seriousness of some potential buyers?

KARAOGLANOV: Well, mistakes do happen. But to reduce their number, we take advantage of the network of our missions abroad which supply us with reliable information on the market demands in this field, and on how much one or another state is interested in purchasing arms. Naturally, we also make the best of information available from special agencies and the press. Our association lives by the commission. We charge commission, this gives us a limited amount of money, so if we take risks, we try to be cautious.

"IF": As to the nearest future, what sort of advertising is your association planning?

KARAOGLANOV: Well, I suppose I can mention in this connection a forthcoming show of our arms in China. In principle, an agreement has already been reached about it in the course of the recent trip to China by Russian President Boris Yeltsin. The deadline for the show has already been set, it is the end of March, the beginning of April. We'll show army weaponry there, armor, artillery material, small arms.

The arms trade fair in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates) that was held in the middle of February caused major interest. OBORONEXPORT was an organizer of that show on the Russian side and provided its own money to conduct the fair. We have spent, as I have already said, about $3 million on it, our own money. It is not state money.

"IF": Do you see any conflict of interest between your professional, commercial goals and those of the state?

KARAOGLANOV: Not at all. Commercial profit is not our sole aim. For us, the priority in this endeavor is to retain the status of the Russian military industry. We are guided by this principle - not to make a profit but rather to retain the industry's export and supply potential. That is why we invest the major portion of profits reaped in the military industrial complex. Moreover, to ensure the reliability and continuity of exports, we are participating in the construction of a new port and new merchant vessels.

As you know, in our hard times the defense industry faces an acute shortage of financing for scientific research and design work. And we don't ignore opportunities there either. In spite of the fact that OBORONEXPORT naturally cannot bear all expenses, we will supply money for only the most promising programs.

Government To Retain Control of Privatized Oil Industry

OW0303141793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1355 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian State Property Committee has issued a directive at the end of February under which the government is to retain control of Russian oil-producing and oil-refining industries for at least another three years, and is to limit the amount of stock to be sold to the personnel of enterprises in the industry with certain privileges. The directive is based on President Boris Yeltsin's decree from November 17, 1992 on privatizing the oil industry.

"The State Property Committee's document will make it possible to speed up the privatization of oil industry enterprises," one of the committee's senior officials, Aleksandr Belousov, told INTERFAX. He said the directive incorporated model regulations and a model plan for the privatization of the industry's enterprises worked out with the assistance of experts from the Fuel and Energy Ministry.

These regulations and plans automatically cancel a directive issued earlier by the committee's Deputy Chairman Petr Mostovoy. In a telegram sent off on January 25, he instructed the committee's local agencies and regional state property committees not to approve any documents on the privatization of oil industry enterprises.

Government To Discuss Citizens' Rights During Privatization

OW0303141993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1355 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At its meeting on Thursday [4 March], the Russian Government will be considering a draft presidential decree on state guarantees for citizens' rights during privatization. The meeting's preliminary agenda also includes a discussion on provisional regulations for the licensing of the use of natural resources.

According to its press service, the government will also consider measures to improve the performance of the oil and gas industry.

Government To 'Take Action' Against Central Bank Policies

MK0303130893 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 2 Mar 93 p 3

[Andrey Melnikov report: "Government Continues To Squabble With Central Bank"]

[Text] The conflict between the government and the Central Bank [CBR] leadership appears to have reached a critical stage. Late Friday night [26 February] Vice Premier Boris Fedorov addressed St. Petersburg bankers and said that the Central Bank of Russia under Viktor Gerashchenko had not created "a single instrument for pursuing a sensible monetary and financial policy." In view of this, the government intends to push through its own measures to improve economic health, which, according to observers, means that it plans to concentrate financial authority in its own hands.

Speaking before the chiefs of St. Petersburg's commercial banks, Boris Fedorov noted that the Central Bank under Gerashchenko was in effect continuing to carry out automatically those functions of the USSR Gosbank that gave subsidies to enterprises. At the same time, the Central Bank was unable to devise effective measures to fight hyperinflation, did not cope with "the catastrophe in interbank clearing," and failed to provide a reasonable mechanism for creating state hard-currency reserves.

According to the vice premier, the government is in no mood to tolerate the situation and intends to take action on its own to improve the economy's financial health. In particular, the government will insist that a clear line be drawn between the refinancing of commercial banks and preferential credits to enterprises. To achieve this aim, Fedorov said, all preferential credits must be accounted for in the budget and distributed by a government commission dealing with credits, to be headed by a vice premier (B. Fedorov). With regard to regulation of the foreign economic activity of Russian residents, the government suggests that "a number of regulations to tighten up the system of currency controls" be put in place. At the same time, the requirement for exporters to sell 100 percent of their hard-currency earnings to the state was unrealistic, Mr. Fedorov said, and the government would not insist on its introduction.

In addition, the government will oppose CBR action aimed at raising the size of commercial banks's minimum authorized capital to 100 million rubles, because it considers this a CBR attempt to simplify its own task of supervising commercial banks.

For his part Viktor Khalanskiy, chief of the Central Bank's St. Petersburg administration, who was present but did not speak at the meeting, told a KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent that there were many debatable points in the vice premier's speech. For instance, according to Khalanskiy, it was not CBR credits "granted by the Central Bank from its own reserves" that caused the inflationary money supply growth, but the money given by the Finance Ministry for carrying out conversion and for replenishing the working capital of enterprises. Viktor Khalanskiy also noted that it was unethical for the vice premier to meet with bankers and to speak about the future of the financial system without having a representative of the Central Bank in his delegation.

According to observers, the government's conflict with the Central Bank is a logical extension of its confrontation with parliament, to which by law the Central Bank also reports. If the government's plans to concentrate financial authority in its hands are realized, it will gain indisputable tangible advantages in its struggle with the Supreme Soviet.

Supreme Soviet

Kozhokin Says President May Not Disband Parliament

OW0303173693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1644 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The chairman of a subcommittee of the parliamentary Defense and Security Committee, Yevgeniy Kozhokin, said at a meeting of the parliamentary Reform Coalition that "the President has no powers under the Constitution to disband the Congress of People's Deputies and the Supreme Soviet." Although this has not been stated as an aim, "ideological and legal arguments are being put forward in a bid to prove the necessity of the disbandment of the Congress and the Supreme Soviet." In Kozhokin's view, the President does not enjoy enough support in the country to "attempt making a move violating the Constitution." Under such circumstances, the only opportunity open to him is having a new presidential and parliamentary elections held before his and the people's deputies' terms expire, and this should be put before the forthcoming congress of people's deputies. It would be in the interest of the pro-reform forces if there the new presidential and parliamentary elections were held with an interval of at least six months between them rather than if they coincided in time but this would be impossible to achieve, Kozhokin said.

Other speakers said the democratic wing in parliament might win support on this issue from the opposition, which is in the majority both in the Supreme Soviet and at the Congress of People's Deputies.

Some of the Reform Coalition members believe it will be possible to reach an agreement with the Russian Unity opposition bloc, and, in particular, have the Supreme Soviet formulate the status of its chairman as simply that of a speaker rather than the virtual leader of parliament.

Parliament Invites Yeltsin to 5 Mar Session

OW0403113893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1059 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian parliament has decided to invite President Boris Yeltsin to its plenary session on Friday [5 March].

The proposal was made on Thursday morning by Mikhail Chelnokov of the opposition Russian Unity alliance. He wanted the president to explain to parliament what he meant by a constitutional crisis and constitutional agreement and what "other measures" Yeltsin is planning to take, if the Congress of People's Deputies turns out conservative in his opinion.

The parliament also accepted the proposal of a leading member of Russian Unity, Sergey Baburin, who suggested demanding the minutes of the Wednesday session of the Security Council chaired by the president as well as the minutes of his meeting with the commanders of the armed forces.

In his comments on the proposal, speaker of parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov stressed that under the constitution the parliament is in charge of general leadership of the armed forces. He was alarmed by the fact that military commanders appealing to the speaker are being discharged. "If this practice continues, I am afraid the defense minister himself will be discharged," Khasbulatov said. He was sorry that he was isolated from the work of the Security Council and that parliament has no influence on it. "I have no information about the Wednesday meeting of the council whatsoever," Khasbulatov said.

Baburin criticized deputy speaker Yuriy Voronin for sending telegrams to deputies informing them that the Congress is beginning on March 10, though the parliament has not set the date yet. In Baburin's opinion such a working style has been imposed by Ruslan Khasbulatov, who is negotiating with the president without the knowledge of parliament.

The speaker reproached Baburin for being overly suspicious and said he had an hour and a half long meeting with Boris Yeltsin on Wednesday evening.

On Thursday the parliament is expected to discuss a draft agreement between the executive and legislative branches submitted by the president as well as questions to be raised during the referendum in April.

Khasbulatov Says Parliament Controls Army

LD0403105093 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0900 GMT 4 Mar 93

[By correspondent Marina Polikarpova; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] As expected, today the Russian parliament examined the question of the convocation of the eighth extraordinary Congress of People's Deputies. Nikolay Ryabov, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet, delivered a report. He proposed that the congress should be convened on 10 March, 31 days before the date of the referendum. If we allow ourselves to drag out the date of the congress, Ryabov noted, then we bear responsibility for a lack of preparedness for the referendum.

During discussion of the agenda, the Russian parliamentarians supported Deputy Chelnokov, who proposed that President Boris Yeltsin should be invited to tomorrow's joint session of the chambers. Inasmuch as a number of deputies showed concern about yesterday's Security Council session, and also the president's meeting with the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces, the Supreme Soviet decided that parliament should be presented with a stenographic report of the session. At the same time, Ruslan Khasbulatov recalled an article in the Constitution which states that it is precisely the Supreme Soviet that assumes overall control over the armed forces.

Ryabov Wants Congress To Cancel Referendum

OW0403114193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1059 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The deputy speaker of the Russian parliament Nikolay Ryabov has given his reasons for holding the extraordinary Congress of People's Deputies. In his opinion the forum to be convened on March 10 should have only one item on the agenda—the cancelation of the constitutional referendum in April.

The decision to hold the referendum was made by the congress last December.

Ryabov said that in December 1992 the referendum was viewed as a means of overcoming the political crisis and an important stage of the constitutional reform. However, at present many political forces are opposed to the idea, considering it useless, if not harmful.

Ryabov named the chairman of the Constitutional Court Valeriy Zorkin among the opponents to the referendum. He said that the president has also spoken for holding an extraordinary congress. According to Ryabov, the parliament of Karelya as well as the local councils in Krasnodar, Saratov, Kemerovo and several other regions have suggested holding the congress the cancel referendum. [sentence as received]

The deputy speaker believes that the organizers and current supporters of the referendum need it to distract the public from problems related to the transformation of forms of ownership, the disintegration of the nation and the operation of its life-support systems.

Ryabov said that an understanding on key problems of the day is the only way to prevent a complete loss of control over the country. He thinks that the referendum is dangerous today because none of the sides will win. The outcome will require additional voting and this can cause a new round of conflict between the branches of power which will throw back the whole process of democratic reforms in the country.

Khasbulatov Arrives in Helsinki 1 Mar

LD0103215493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1949 GMT 1 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Surikov]

[Text] Helsinki March 1 TASS—Russian Parliamentary Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov arrived in Helsinki on Monday [1 March] on a visit at the invitation of the Nordic Council which coordinates inter- parliamentary and inter-governmental cooperation between Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Finland and Sweden.

Khasbulatov is expected to address the 42nd session of the Nordic Council opening in Oslo on Tuesday, thus creating a precedent in the history of the organisation which was established in 1952.

Khasbulatov is also scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland and Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg.

Attends Nordic Council Meeting

LD0203181393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1734 GMT 2 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Surikov]

[Text] Helsinki March 2 TASS—Russian Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov assured the Nordic Council that the current political crisis in Russia, which has been lasting since December, is a temporary phenomenon which is sure to be overcome.

Addressing the 42nd session of the council in Oslo on Tuesday, he said that the crisis originated because not all officials of the top executive authority, where there are many former communist bureacrats who are used to govern without any parliamentary control, can reconcile with the fact that the Russian Supreme Soviet is developing into a normal parliament with legislative and controlling functions characteristic of Western legislatures.

Today Russia needs qualified work in all directions of reforms, strict interaction of all political forces in solving common tasks, according to the speaker.

Khasbulatov believes there are preconditions for developing relations between the CIS Interpariamentary Assembly and the Nordic Council. Russian and CIS legislators seriously intend to cooperate with neighbours, the speaker said referring to the council which coordinates cooperation among parliaments and governments of Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Finland and Sweden since 1952.

Khasbulatov added, however, that the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly is being formed at the moment.

The speaker proposed to the secretariat of the Nordic Council to create jointly with the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly and Russian legislators a group of experts who would deal with practical issues of interaction in the north of Europe. He said the group should also take into account the interests of subregional cooperation, in particular, in the zones of the Baltic and Barents Seas.

[Helsinki Suomen Yleisradio Network in Finnish at 1530 GMT on 2 March Reports: "Ruslan Khasbulatov, Speaker of the Russian Parliament, is currently speaking at the Nordic Council session at the Norwegian Parliament. Khasbulatov's attendance at the meeting has irritated top Nordic politicians. The prime ministers of Sweden and Denmark did not attend the session at which Khasbulatov spoke.

["[Reporter Timo Seppaenen] The speaker of the Russian Parliament received an invitation from Nordic Council President Ilkka Suominen last October. It was not known then that Khasbulatov was the ringleader of the conservatives opposing President Yeltsin and the main brake in Yeltsin's reform policies. The Nordic countries have sworn many times that they support

President Yeltsin and his reform projects. Thus Khasbulatov's visit at the Nordic Council gives an odd picture of the policy line of the Nordic countries on Russia.

["Many top Nordic top politicians are also worried that Khasbulatov will use the platform of the Norwegian Parliament to launch an attack against President Yeltsin. These fears were fuelled this morning by a report from Moscow on Yeltsin's latest speech, where he suggested in vague terms the possibility of using unconstitutional means to get the conservatives back into order.

["Swedish Premier Carl Bildt and his Danish colleague Poul Nyrup Rasmussen decided to stay away from the Parliament Hall in Oslo during Khasbulatov's speech. Bildt and Nyrup agreed on a joint meeting for the same time. However, Premier Bildt assures that this is not any kind of protest.

["[Begin Bildt recording, in Swedish] No, it is not, but it is only because I have a fairly busy program, and Poul Nyrup Rasmussen and I already earlier agreed on a bilateral Swedish-Danish meeting, we have a lot to discuss and we expect to talk [words indistinct]. [end recording]

["[Seppaenen] Bildt claims that his and the Danish premier's decision only depended on the timetable and the busy work program. Bildt emphasizes that Khasbulatov is in Oslo at the invitation of the Nordic Council and no meetings have been agreed for him with the premiers. However, the Swedish premier's explanations on busy schedules look far fetched in the eyes of one observing this meeting. Bildt is also unable to conceal his irritation at Khasbulatov's presence.

["The Nordic youth politicians were more direct. All the organizations taking part in the Young Nordic Council decided to walk out of their meeting for the duration of Khasbulatov's speech. Finnish Premier Esko Aho, who is suffering from a fever, is listening to Khasbulatov's speech despite the fuss. Aho avoided criticizing the invitation given to Khasbulatov but gave it to understand that the matter is somewhat awkward.

["[Begin Aho recording] I don't believe this would give a stigma to the Nordic countries, but, as I said, the timing for Khasbulatov's speech at the Nordic Council is not now the best possible because of the internal situation in Russia, and that, in my view, is the only reason on the basis of which you can criticize this matter. [end recording]"]

Urges Yeltsin To Abide by Constitution

LD0303140093 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Report by announcer Sergey Vozianov, over video of Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov addressing a meeting, speaking outdoors to a correspondent; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian parliament, has called on the Russian president to stay within his constitutional powers, and to respect decisions to be taken at the forthcoming Congress of People's Deputies of Russia. He made this statement at the sitting of the Nordic Council in Oslo. If Yeltsin does not share power with parliament, his actions will be tantamount to dictatorship, Khasbulatov said.

Further on Nordic Council Meeting

LD0303173493 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1100 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Excerpt] The session of the Nordic Council opened yesterday in Oslo. Today we have an exhaustive report about it. Correspondent Arkadijus Vinokuras has sent us this report directly from Oslo by phone:

[Vinokuras] The aim of this session is to find new forms of cooperation between the Nordic states and to coordinate the negotiations between the EC and Finland, Norway, and Sweden.

However, on the very first day the idea of cooperation was put to the test in practical terms. The speaker of the Finnish parliament and the chairman of the presidium of the council's parliament—without prior consultations, almost in secret—invited Russian parliament speaker Khasbulatov to speak at the session.

Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt, expressing his own wish and that of his colleagues and the members of parliament, was making every effort possible to recall Khasbulatov's appearance. The reason for such indignation is that Khasbulatov is regarded only as a temporary acting parliamentary speaker as well as Yeltsin's opponent. During the meeting with Bildt in Moscow he scolded Yeltsin for ignoring all the rules of diplomatic etiqette.

Finnish parliamentary speaker Ilkka Suominen was compelled to subterfuge: He finally explained the invitation by saying that Khasbulatov was chairman of an interparliamentary cooperation group.

Nevertheless, the Russian parliament speaker made his address although the hall was half empty. Swedish and Danish premiers were not present in the hall at that time. [passage omitted]

Khasbulatov Comments on 3 Mar Meeting With Yeltsin

OW0403113293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1059 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of Russia's Parliament, Ruslan Khasbulatov, stated at a session of parliament that almost the entire hour and a half of conversation with President Boris Yeltsin on March 3 was spent "in trying to convince him (the president) that we did not introduce article 104 of the Constitution." Khasbulatov stressed that this article "is one of the few remaining from the former Constitution of Russia." In his opinion, "some one is especially suggesting to the president" that this article was introduced into the Constitution by the current Russian Congress of People's Deputies. Article 104 states that the highest body of state power in the Russian Federation is the Congress of People's Deputies of Russia. The Russian Congress has the right "to solve any issues within the Russian Federation's jurisdiction." Khasbulatov confirmed that this article of the Constitution "contradicts the division of powers" and that he, starting with the second Congress of People's Deputies, is in favor of amending the article.

Parliament Refuses Request To Discuss Yeltsin 'Disrespect'

LD0303145693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0933 GMT 3 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondents Yuriy Filippov and Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, 3 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—Today the Soviet of the Republic - one of the chambers of the Russian Parliament - turned down, without debate, a request from deputy Vladimir Isakov to include on its agenda the question of asking the Constitutional Court to investigate the political actions of the Russian Federation president. Isakov, a leader of the opposition "Russian Unity" bloc, said that during his meeting with representatives of the "Democratic Choice" movement on Tuesday the president made remarks which "demonstrated his reluctance to obey the basic law of the Russian Federation" and openly showed disrespect for the existing constitution and the decisions of the Sixth and Seventh Congresses of People's Deputies. Isakov was particularly concerned by the president's disclosure that he had a so-called "final solution" to the constitutional crisis which went beyond the framework of the law and the constitution.

Today the Soviet of Nationalities, the other chamber of parliament, refused to discuss the date for the extraordinary Congress of People's Deputies or its agenda. Deputy Vladimir Podoprigora, a member of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, insisted that a debate be held. He revealed that he and all his colleagues received a cable from the parliamentary leadership specifying a date for the Congress - 10 March. "This date has not been decided by anybody. The subject is not going to be discussed until Thursday's joint session of the chambers," he stated.

In this connection deputy Gleb Yakunin drew attention to the fact that the Supreme Soviet is planning to discuss the question of the Congress without examining the draft constitutional agreement forwarded to parliament by the president as long ago as 17 February. "By rejecting Boris Yeltsin's proposals," he said, "we are striking out at the head of state and his agreement and demonstrating that responsibility for the outcome of this confrontation will rest entirely with the Supreme Soviet."

The members of the chamber confirmed the decision taken last week to discuss the date of the Congress and its agenda at a joint session of the chambers to be held on Thursday [4 March].

Procurator General Urges Legal Reform

LD0303201493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1148 GMT 3 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, 3 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—"Legal reform is called upon to change our lives no less radically than economic and land reform," stated Russian Procurator General Valentin Stepankov. "It is proceeding extremely slowly. We are departing from the decisions of the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies which set out the priority tasks of the struggle against crime and which need to be implemented in a legislative sense at the present session, but nothing so far has been done," he said.

Valentin Stepankov was speaking today in the Soviet of Nationalities in the debate on the draft law on introducing juries into Russia. He reacted critically to a number of articles in the document which, in his view, "unjustifiably transfer the Western model of a jury into Russian practice." The procurator general, among other things, drew attention to the fact that contrary to the Russian Constitution, which proclaims equality of all citizens before the law and the court, the draft law proposes the introduction of a jury only for a certain category of defendants. Cases relating to adolescents have been unjustifiably excluded from the list of cases under its jurisdiction.

The chanber rejected the draft law and sent it to parliamentary committees and commissions for work to be completed on it.

Draft Law on Freedom of Demonstrations Rejected

LD0303202293 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1500 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Report by correspondent M. Vasilyeva; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Russian parliament worked in two separate chambers today. At the discussion of the agenda in the Soviet of the Republic, Vladimir Isakov made a suggestion that the Constitutional Court be requested to assess political actions of the Russian president. The alarm of the opposition leader was caused by the president's remark yesterday to the effect that he possessed some final version of the settlement to the constitutional crisis, a solution lying outside the framework of law and constitution. The majority of the deputies, however, failed to support this suggestion of Vladimir Isakov.

Both chambers of the parliament have been considering a draft law on the freedom of gatherings, demonstrations, and public statements at its first reading—a document which is to codify legally citizens' right to take part in public events, as these matters are at the moment regulated only by the president's decrees and the government's decisions. The deputies objected, however, to some tenets of the new draft law. For example, the article which forbids to hold mass events in the vicinity of buildings where power bodies are located—in the deputies' opinion, this means a virtual ban on picketing. Also, there were objections to the time margin—7 to 15 days in advance—which the law imposes on all applications for rallies and demonstrations. As a result, this draft law was voted down in the Soviet of the Republic.

Bill on Jury Trial Approved in First Reading

OW0303192993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1849 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a session Wednesday [3 March] the Russian Supreme Soviet's Council of the Republic approved in its first reading a bill which would introduce an alternative judicial process in Russia. The bill stipulates establishing new procedures for processing criminal cases - a joint hearing of the case by a jury of peers.

According to the alternative judicial process, criminal cases in regional (city) courts will be heard in two ways - by a single judge and by a jury trial (1 judge and 12 jurors). A single judge would individually hear cases of crimes which carry sentences of no more than 5 years imprisonment. Crimes carrying long sentences would receive jury trials.

The bill proposes putting cases of the most serious crimes, including crimes which carry possible death sentences, under the jurisdiction of regional (territorial) jury courts, which already consist of 3 professional judges and 12 jurors.

According to the bill, a verdict of guilty will be accepted if at least 8 of the 12 jurors vote for it. An innocent verdict is accepted if at least 6 of the 12 jurors vote for it. The verdict cannot be appealed or contested.

According to the bill, those eligible for jury duty are citizens of Russia, at least 25 years of age, permanently residing within the territory where the court case is being heard, and are fluent in the language in which the judicial process is conducted in that area.

The authors of the bill, recognizing the lack of financial, material, technical, and personnel needs for establishing the alternative judicial process, proposed introducing it gradually. They proposed first introducing jury courts to 5 Russian regions - the Ivanovskaya, Ryazanskaya, Moskovskaya, and Saratovskaya Districts, and the Stavropol Territory.

These regions were chosen for the typical nature of the justice problems in these districts for all Russian judicial systems, and because of their close proximity to Moscow, which will allow the course of the judicial process to be controlled from the center.

Soviet of Nationalities, Republic Hold Separate Sittings

LD0303221293

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television in Russian at 2045 GMT on 3 March, in the "At the Russian Supreme Soviet Session" program, carries a 30-minute recorded report by an unidentified correspondent on the proceedings of the Soviet of Nationalities and the Soviet of the Republic on 3 March.

The correspondent explains that the Soviet of Nationalities discussed the draft law on the freedom of gatherings and demonstrations and on preparing the legal reform—in particular, introducing trial by jury. Procurator-General Stepankov spoke.

The Soviet of the Republic discussed the need for a clearer concept of reform and, in connection with this, for a regular slot for discussing economic, credit and finance policy at the sittings of the chamber. The program included excerpts from deputies' speeches on improving the organizational and disciplinary aspects of the chamber's work. The chamber then discussed the draft law on the freedom of gatherings and demonstrations—which was not adopted—and court reform.

Supreme Soviet Spring Field Work Directive

PM0303161193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Mar 93 First Edition p 5

[Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Directive No. 4516-1 "on Urgent Measures To Prepare for 1993 Spring Field Work"]

[Text] With a view to reliably ensuring the production of agricultural output and activating preparation for 1993 spring field work, the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet decrees:

1. That it be taken into account that the Central Bank of the Russian Federation has earmarked centralized credit resources for agricultural enterprises, private farmers, and enterprises and organizations of the agro-industrial complex engaged in the repair of agricultural equipment and deliveries of seeds, spare parts and materials, mineral fertilizers, and plant protection agents within the following timeframe and the following amounts: in February 140 billion rubles [R] including R25 billion for private farmers, and in March R150 billion, including R25 billion for private farmers.

That the Central Bank of the Russian Federation be instructed to examine the question of the possibility of earmarking in the first half of 1993 centralized credit resources within the limits of R1 trillion to carry out spring field work and tend the crops.

2. That the Central Bank of the Russian Federation transfer every month to the Russian Federation republican budget half its calculated profit to subsidize the interest on bank credits received by collective farms, state farms, peasant (individual farmers') farms, and other formations of rural commodity producers and enterprises and organizations of the agro-industrial complex engaged in the repair of agricultural equipment and deliveries of seeds, spare parts and materials, mineral fertilizers, and plant protection agents and also to compensate for the difference in interest rates on extended preferential credits and credits for the purchase of feed issued to agricultural enterprises which suffered from drought and other natural disasters in 1992.

3. That in accordance with the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Law "on the priority provision of the agro-industrial complex with material and technical resources" the Russian Federation Government must introduce most-favored status for enterprises and organizations which produce and supply output for the agro-industrial complex and allocate in 1993 for agriculture, from the federal state needs fund, quotas for gasoline, diesel fuel, and lubricants to meet requirements in full.

4. That it be recommended to the supreme soviets of the republics within the Russian Federation and to the soviets of people's deputies of krays, oblasts, the autonomous oblast, and the autonomous okrugs that they render the necessary aid to agricultural commodity producers in importing seeds in short supply, fuel, fertilizers, and pesticides, in producing spare parts and units, and repairing agricultural equipment and that they take control of the use of agricultural land and the progress in preparing and implementing the spring field work.

5. That at the suggestion of the Russian Federation Government a nonbudget fund be formed for financial support for agriculture by introducing a tax for the purpose levied from enterprises and organizations irrespective of their form of ownership.

The Russian Federation Government must within two weeks submitted for examination by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet proposals for the introduction of the relevant changes to Russian Federation legislation and a draft provision on the nonbudget fund for financial support for agriculture.

[Signed] R.I. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, Moscow, House of Russian Soviets, 18 February 1993.

Regional Affairs

Groznyy Claims Russian Services Kill 2 Chechens in London

OW0303143193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1356 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On March 3 the official Chechen agency "CHECHEN-PRESS" reported that the Chechen leadership believes that the Russian special services had organized the murder of President Dzhokhar Dudayev's foreign economic relations adviser, Ruslan Utsiyev, and his brother, recently killed in London. According to official sources in Groznyy, the aim of the murder is to frighten Chechnya's leadership and to make them sign the Federative Treaty.

According to the CHECHEN-PRESS, in a telephone talk with officials in Groznyy, a representative of the British criminal investigation department reported that one of the suspects had been detained. His identity is being determined.

Meanwhile, Western mass media reports that two suspects, both of them Russians, have been detained. These sources state that Utsiyev and his brother came to London to discuss issues concerning the production of the Chechen money and stamps.

Two Suspects Arrested

LD0303182893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1539 GMT 3 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy March 3 TASS—One of the two Chechens murdered in London turned out to be an aide of Chechen President Djokhar Dudayev who is sending a group of his Foreign Ministry officials to Great Britain in this connection.

37 year-old Ruslan Utsiyev was Dudayev's foreign trade economic adviser who was staying in London "on a special assignment of the president of the Chechen Republic", the CHECHENPRESS news agency said on Wednesday without elaborating.

The second victim was Utsiyev's younger brother—Nazarbek.

The two murdered brothers were, according to Scotland Yard, visiting London from Chechnya with unlimited amounts of hard currency, supposedly to sign a contract to make passports, postage stamps and banknotes for the independent Chechen Republic.

According to Scotland Yard, 30-year-old Nkrtish Martirosyan and 33-year-old Gagik Ter-Oganisyan were arrested on charges of murdering the two Chechens.

Chechen President Vetoes Resolution on Referendum

OW0303142393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1356 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Wednesday [3 March] the Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev vetoed the resolution of the republic's parliament to conduct a referendum on March 27. The republic's citizens were to express their attitude to Chechnya's statehood and sovereignty during this referendum. Dudayev believes that the Chechen people have already expressed their opinion on this issue during presidential and parliamentary elections in 1991.

The Chechen parliament decided to conduct the March 27 referendum after it had abolished the President's decision to conduct a nation- wide poll on a draft of the republic's new Constitution. The Constitution foresees a substantial expansion of the Chechen President's authorities. Sources in the parliament assert that a small number of the Chechen population participated in the opinion poll which was nevertheless conducted on February 19.

Parliament Asks Court To Scrutinize Veto

OW0403122393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1101 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Chechen parliament has urged the Constitutional Court of the country to check the legality of President Dzhokhar Dudayev vetoing the parliamentary resolution to hold a referendum on March 27. An appropriate inquiry was received by the Constitutional Court on Wednesday, according to its chairman Ikhvan Gerikhanov.

The referendum was meant to determinate the attitude of the public to the sovereignty and independence of the Chechen republic.

Gerikhanov told Interfax that the court has recognized the legality of a parliamentary veto on a public vote proposed by Dudayev on the new wording of the constitution giving the president much greater powers. The vote was taken on February 19, but according to MPs, the turnout was minimal.

The Constitutional Court has declared that the absence of harmony between the president and parliament threatens the state order of the Chechen republic.

Tatarstan Develops Draft Declaration on Neutrality

OW0303180893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1646 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Fandas Safiullin, a member of the presidium of Tatarstan's Supreme Soviet and one of the authors of the draft declaration, declared in his interview with Interfax that adoption of the declaration, which proclaims Tatarstan's neutrality, could prevent republic's involvement in different military conflicts, international and domestic ones.

To this effect he expressed concern about the decision of the Russian authorities to send detachments of the Volga military ditrict's 27th division, staffed predominantly with conscripts from Tatarstan, to Yugoslavia as peacekeeping forces. According to Safiullin, this could involve the republic in an international conflict and antagonize Muslim states, in particular Turkey, against Tatarstan.

The draft declaration on neutrality was distributed at the session of Tatarstan's parliament held in Kazan but its discussion was not included into the agenda in the course of the voting.

The declaration foresees that Tatarstan, as a neutral state, pledges not to join any military-political blocs and alliances, not to allow its territory to be used to wage hostilities and deploy military bases. According to the draft, Tatarstan should not participate in armed conflicts or render direct military and political assistance to warring and conflicting parties.

Tatarstan Prime Minister Discusses Production

LD0403122593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1158 GMT 4 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Sorokin]

[Text] Kazan March 4 TASS—Tatarstan's government regards the possibility of arresting the fall in industrial production in the first six months of this year and stabilising it for an early upturn in the second half of the year as a feasible task, Prime Minister Mukhammat Sabirov told a session of the republican Supreme Soviet today.

Forecasts show that Tatarstan's industry will produce 1.5 trillion roubles worth of output this year, which will make up 99 per cent of last year's level. The main factor that will ensure growth is integration at different levels.

A comprehensive programme for military production conversion is being elaborated jointly with the Russian government in nine directions. Its implementation will not only stop the plunge in the machine-building industry but also enable it to increase production. The natural drop in oil production due to the ageing of fields will be set off by the development of oil bitumen fields, whose reserves are estimated to exceed 10 billion tonnes.

The construction of an oil bitumen refining facility, the first in the country, begins in the Kama region. The first inter-sectoral corporation involving oil production, petro-chemical and oil products marketing enterprises began to be formed. An international consortium is being set up at the car manufacturing plant in Yelabuga. Some European and Asian states expressed the desire to join it in addition to the Commonwealth countries. Tatarstan's power engineering, once it fully provides its economy with electric energy, will supply one fifth part of it to neighbouring regions.

The Tatar parliament continues to discuss President Shaymiyev's budgetary message.

Talks on Ingush-Ossetian Settlement Continue

LD0303202693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1916 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] Kislovodsk (Stavropol region) March 3 TASS—Fears that Ingush-Ossetian talks have been deadlocked following a statement made by the North Ossetian delegation at today's closed-door session were not justified. North Ossetia and Ingushetia have resumed an uneasy dialogue.

No official explanation was made concerning the statement made by the North Ossetian side. However, trustworthy sources said that the North Ossetian side had put forward new terms for the continuation of the talks, especially as far as the problem of refugees' return is concerned.

Mediators from Daghestan and Stavropol participating in the talks pointed out that both delegations are continuing talks showing respect for each other's positions.

N. Ossetia 'Probably' To Recognize S. Ossetia Independence

OW0303172993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1644 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Supreme Soviet of North Ossetia will probably recognize the independence of South Ossetia at its session scheduled for March 6. Our Interfax correspondent reports from Vladikavkaz that the issue on an appropriate declaration has been included in the agenda on Wednesday [3 March].

Several parliamentarians declared in their conversations with our Interfax correspondent that the consideration of the issue of South Ossetia's independence by the Supreme Soviet can be viewed as the first step on the way to its unification with North Ossetia.

Currently the committees and commissions of North Ossetian parliament are discussing the concept of social-economic and cultural integration of North and South Ossetia and a draft agreement on cooperation and mutual assistance between two republics.

Yeltsin Signs Decree on Aid for Gorno-Altay Republic

LD0303173593 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] The president of Russia has signed a decree which outlines a complex of measures for the social-economic development of the Republic of Gornyy Altay. Its status is strengthened as an ecological and economic zone with a number of privileges. In particular, wages will be enhanced. At the expense of the federal budget a network of motor roads will be built and funds are being allocated for the development of the agrarian sector, the power industry, science, and culture.

Shakhray Addresses Volga, Urals Forum

PM0303141593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Mar 93 First Edition p 2

[Report by Margarita Ziangirova and Dmitriy Mikhaylin: "I Am Citizen of Russia"]

[Text] Samara—A conference of representatives of oblasts and republics of the Volga and Urals regions was held 27-28 February in Samara at the initiative of the Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities and the Russian State Committee for Nationalities Policy which discussed the state of interethnic relations in the region and elaborated recommendations for preventing national conflicts. At the conference 20 subjects of the Federation were represented—seven republics, 12 oblasts, and the Komi-Permyatskiy Autonomous Okrug—in which about one-third of Russia's population lives.

Counter to expectations the heads of administration of only three oblast took part in the work and not a single president, supreme soviet chairman, or prime minister was present. Indeed, according to Ramazan Abdulatipov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities, who opened the session, this gave the conference not a representative but a working nature. The declaration adopted on the principles of interethnic relations in the Volga and Urals regions contains a call to resolve interethnic disputes "exclusively with the aid of dialogue, talks, mediation, and the use of all-Russian and regional mechanisms for settling conflicts." The conference supported the proposal to create a coordination council of republics and oblasts of the Volga and Urals regions. It was decided to accelerate the formation of a regional center of the State Committee for Nationalities Policy in Samara and to embark this year on the practical development of a regional program of national revival for the Volga and Urals peoples. In the very near future a regional data bank will be created to provide information backup for national revival programs and to predict, prevent, and resolve interethnic conflicts as will a regional fund for the revival of the Volga and Urals peoples.

The appeal to the peoples of Russia which was adopted deemed to be intolerable the further deepening of antagonism between the branches of power and noted that the sovereignty of the subjects of the Russian Federation cannot be set against all-Russian interests and Russia's integrity.

The speeches of the regions' representatives contained thoughts about how the local budgets will not be adequate without the center's participation to implement the program for the resurrection of the peoples' languages and cultures. The leaders of national cultural societies (there are 12 in Samara alone) are worried by the mass media's attitude toward national problems. A lot was said about how you can hear whatever speech and signing you like and see whatever dances you like on television but not those of the Russian peoples.

Attention was also paid to the problem of implementing the Federation Treaty. In the opinion of the Soviet of Nationalities chairman it should become a real stabilizer of the situation in the country and a guarantee of the conservation of the Federation's integrity.

As Sergey Shakhray said at the press conference on the results of the conference, representatives of the Russian leadership had come to Samara not to impose anything on anyone but to hear the representatives of the regions, study the situation, and by their common efforts to set in motion the mechanism for the self-regulation of ethnic conflicts.

In addition he asked that no analogies be drawn with the state of interethnic relations in the North Caucasus, where a similar event took place two months ago. "For me work in the zone of the conflict in the North Caucasus showed that it is a case of an acute manifestation of an acute systemic economic crisis which has acquired a national coloring. Initially the accumulation of capital and the struggle for power of new elites, including national elites, has been accompanied, is accompanied, and evidently will be accompanied by a struggle for territories using weapons. In addition in this region I was convinced where an inept nationalities policy leads," Sergey Shakhray noted.

As for the results of the nationalities policy, in the opinion of Nikolay Makarevich, chairman of the Saratov Oblast Soviet, who spoke at the conference, they must be expressed in ensuring that in a while every person of any nationality, political views, or religion can say proudly: "I am a citizen of Russia."

North Development Program To Be Submitted 8 Apr

OW0303174393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1645 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Wednesday [3 March] at a press conference in Moscow, the deputy chairman of the Russian committee on the Northern Region, Anatoliy Volgin, and the general director of the scientific- industrial center "North of Russia," Aleksandr Pozdnyakov, reported that in 1992 the share of the North in Russia's GNP constituted 10% and that twice as much funding had been channelled for its development.

According to Pozdnyakov, the North's biggest problem now is the labor surplus. As an example, he mentioned the city of Nizhnevartovsk (Tyumen region). This city was built in the vicinity of the Samotlor oil and gas deposit. The deposit, Pozdnyakov said, has been developed and now it is not clear what to do with the city. "The city has become unnecessary and we cannot export the population from there - there is no place for them to go," he empathized.

Volgin reported that a socio-economic program to develop the North is being drafted now. It is due to be submitted to the government for consideration on April 8.

International Affairs

Ministry Clarifies Position on Russian 'Special Powers'

AU0403132893 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 3 Mar 93 p 1

[Text] Russian President B. Yeltsin told the "Civic Union" Congress on 28 February that "it is time that corresponding international organizations, including the United Nations, give Russia special powers as a guarantor of peace and stability on the territory of the former USSR."

The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry states that the Russian president was not authorized by anyone in Ukraine to appeal to the United Nations with such a request. The implementation of such an idea would signify nothing other than blatant violation of all existing international legal norms, including principles of the UN Charter and the main CSCE documents. Russia's striving to unilaterally assume the role as "guarantor of peace and security in the region of the former USSR" carries an unconcealed threat of creating a situation in which "policeman" functions may be given to one of the CIS states. This would inevitably lead to the diktat and interference into internal affairs and, as a result, would constitute a threat to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Ukraine will never agree to such claims. In this regard, Ukraine has appealed to the UN secretary general with a clarification of its position.

Yeltsin Remarks Likened to Kozyrev Speech

MK0403101693 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 3 Mar 93 p 10

[Viktoriya Kulakova, Oleg Medvedev report: "Kiev Criticizes Russian President's Statement"]

[Excerpts] Late on 1 March the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry issued a statement criticizing Russian President Boris Yeltsin's remarks about the need for international organizations to grant Russia special powers as "a guarantor of peace and stability" on the territory of the former USSR. Boris Yeltsin expressed that wish at the 28 February congress of Civic Union. Observers regard the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry statement as the sharpest in Ukraine's 18 months of independent existence. Furthermore, this is the first time that a Ukrainian protest has been provoked by a statement from the Russian president. [passage omitted]

A highly placed Ukrainian diplomat, who asked not to be identified, said that this statement by Yeltsin "had been road-tested" in Andrey Kozyrev's speech at the CSCE Council in Stockholm last December, which was seen by many as a "rhetorical device." According to the same diplomat, however, Ukrainian Foreign Ministry chief Anatoliy Zlenko took Kozyrev's Stockholm speech seriously. The reactionary forces mentioned by Kozyrev did not come to power, "yet now Yeltsin himself comes out with such statements." According to the same source, his statement is seen in Ukraine as the continuation of the policy that Russia is already pursuing toward that country: an energy blockade, the freezing of bank accounts, and the appropriation of former USSR assets located abroad.

Chornovil Attacks 'Imperial Ambitions'

LD0403140593 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2300 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] The visit of Vyacheslav Chornovil, head of the People's Movement [Rukh], to the United States of America is coming to an end. He is there at the invitation of the Strategic Research Center in Washington and the biggest trade union of this country. In his final speeches the leader of Rukh harshly condemned Boris Yeltsin's statement about the need to grant special powers to Russia as a guarantor of peace and stability on the territory of the former USSR. Vyacheslav Chornovil described this idea as a real threat to independence of states that appeared after the collapse of the Soviet Union. He appealed to Americans not to tolerate the imperial ambitions of the Russian leadership, which, according to Vyacheslav Chornovil, regards the former Soviet republics as a zone of special interest of Russia.

Prime Minister Accuses Russia of Continuing Cold War

OW0303192393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1850 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Last year, the level of inflation in Ukraine reached 2000%, said Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma in an interview with Japanese and Ukrainian journalists. At the same time he noted that the decline in production stopped in January and a stabilizing tendency has set in.

Kuchma said the government plans to introduce a national currency this year, but to do so Ukraine will need a stabilization fund of about $2 Bn [billion].

In response to a question on relations with Russia, the prime minister said he had fulfilled his promise and "stopped the cold war" with Russia. "But unfortunately," he said, "the war is still going on from Russia's side." Nevertheless, the prime minister hopes that "reason will prevail even in Russian politicians." He stressed, "if we wage an economic war against one another, there will be no winners." Concerning the future of the CIS, Kuchma claimed that "the CIS is simply some kind of cover and nothing more." At the same time, he does not consider it "a great tragedy" that Ukraine may sign the Commonwealth Charter. Kuchma believes that signing the charter may take the advantage away from "all the politicians trying to set Russia and Ukraine at odds."

No Agreement With Russia on Fuel Prices, Debt Repayment

LD0303201893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1849 GMT 3 Mar 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Mikhail Melnik for TASS]

[Text] Kiev March 3 TASS—Russia and Ukraine failed to agree on fuel prices and debt payments at the recent talks and Ukraine said Russia owes six times more to Ukrainian enterprises than vice versa.

Chairman of the National Bank of Ukraine Viktor Yuschenko said at a press conference on Wednesday [3 March] the Russian debt comprises 650 billion Ukrainian karbovanets, while Ukraine owes Russia 100 billions.

Early Russia blamed Ukraine for failing to pay 165 billion roubles for gas deliveries and threatened to cut off gas supplies in retaliation. The deadline for the move was postponed to allow the two countries to discuss the problem at talks.

"The talks with the Russian Government which we have held of late on prices for energy resources and mutual payments turned out to be fruitless. Preliminary agreements are not fulfilled either", Ukrainian Economics Minister Viktor Pynzenyk said at the press conference.

He regretted that Ukraine was too late to introduce advance payments for raw materials and goods while the system was acting in Russia. It is possible to return the debts only by means of talks which yield no result for the time being, he said.

Pynzenyk said a certain stabilisation has taken place in the Ukrainian economy which is proved, according to him, by the exchange rate of the Ukrainian currency to the dollar which has remained stable for a month.

He also said that an offset of debts of state enterprises is being carried out to determine those plants which face bankruptcy. However, Pynzenyk added some bankrupts will receive financial aid from the state.

A similar offset of debts in Russia last summer resulted in a sharp increase of inflation.

Bank Chairman Cited

LD0403022793 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0100 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] The debt owed by Russian economic structures to their Ukrainian partners today amounts to 600-650 billion rubles, as compared to 100 billion owed by Ukraine. This was announced by the chairman of the board of the Ukrainian National Bank, Viktor Yushchenko. According to him, the financial relations between Russian and Ukrainian buyers and suppliers are the main hitch in Ukraine's payment crisis. Yushchenko hopes that the problem can be solved after a single examination of accounts in Russia. Such an operation is envisaged by an inter-government agreement.

Russian Moves on Status of Crimea Assailed

LD0303213893 Kiev UKRINFORM in Ukrainian 1459 GMT 3 Mar 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Sergey Balykov]

[Text] Kiev, 3 March—The Presidium of the Supreme Council of Ukraine has termed as provocative the questions contained in the questionnaire circulated on 25 December 1992 among the people's deputies of the Republic of Crimea at the initiative of the Russian Parliament's provisional working commission on the status of the City of Sevastopol.

In its statement the Presidium indicates that the Russian Parliament has no grounds for questioning the current status of the Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol. The fact that the highest legislative bodies of the Russian Federation raise questions on the consideration of the issue on the status of the City of Sevastopol by the Russian Supreme Soviet, on establishing confederative relations among Russia, Ukraine, and the Republic of Crimea, and on the necessity of abrogating a moratorium imposed on holding the referendum on the state independence of the Republic of Crimea can only be regarded as open interference in Ukraine's internal affairs, encroachment on the territorial integrity of a sovereign state which is a UN member and a CSCE participant and is recognized by the world community.

The statement stresses that the attempt of the Russian Parliament to solve questions related to the exclusive competence of the highest bodies of state power of Ukraine is a gross violation of articles one and six of the treaty between the Ukraine Soviet Socialist Republic and the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic of 19 November 1990, and also article five of the agreement on setting up the CIS, which contain obligations to respect each other's territorial integrity and inviolability of the existing state borders, and to refrain from actions which could harm the state sovereignty of either of the sides.

The action taken by the commission, resulting from the decision of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation in relation to the City of Sevastopol, contradicts the universally accepted principles and norms of internatinal law, the UN charter, and also the principles proclaimed in the CSCE final act of 1975, in particular, the principles of sovereign equality, respect of rights inherent in sovereignty, respect of territorial integrity of the state, non- interference in domestic affairs, and conscientious fulfillment of obligations within the international law.

Having assessed the action as an unfriendly move in relation to Ukraine, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine insists that the Russian Federation should build its policy in relation to Ukraine on the principles of mutual equality, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, and refrain from actions which could harm the vital national interests of either side, and the interests of peace and security in Europe.

Foreign Minister Comments on Relations With Serbia

OW0303175193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1645 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukraine cannot ignore the will of the world community in its relations with Serbia, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko told parliament on Wednesday [3 March]. He was speaking about Ukraine's relations with the republics of the former Yugoslavia.

The resolution of the United Nations Security Council, he said, did not recommend establishing diplomatic relations with the Union Republic of Yugoslavia, which comprises Serbia and Montenegro. However, he said, Ukraine was maintaining its presence in that country—a Ukrainian diplomat was posted there, and a Ukrainian consulate would soon be opened in Belgrade.

Speaking about Ukraine's relations with Croatia, Zlenko said the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry had condemned the Croatian invasion of Serbian Krajna. If Croatia violated human rights and practiced genocide in Serbian Krajna, Ukraine would be one of the first states to demand UN sanctions against it.

The minister said Ukraine's nonrecognition of Bosnia-Hercegovina had been a far-sighted step to take. Since that republic's government was unable to control its own territory, it would make no sense to recognize the republic, he said.

Prime Minister Comments on Results of Surgut Conference

OW0303164793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1551 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma stated that all Ukrainian proposals suggested at the oil and gas meeting in Surgut attended by the heads of governments and authorized officials from former Soviet republics were heeded.

Kuchma told Ukrainian journalists that specifically due to Ukraine's insistence, the draft agreements did not say that Russian oil would command world prices. According to Kuchma, the agreement will establish joint ventures, corporations and an integrated Tyumen bank, "which is a guarantee that Ukraine would get Tyumen oil."

He stressed that it would be worthwhile for the republic to start setting up joint ventures to produce oil in Western Siberia, and not to hope for "automatic deliveries of crude oil from this region." Kuchma said that all the participants agreed on the need for all the republics to participate in the development of the oil and natural gas industry in Western Siberia. Otherwise, said Kuchma, "oil production will drop to a level at which Russia will barely be able to meet its own needs."

The Ukrainian prime minister confirmed that the Surgut meeting differed from other meetings of CIS heads in so far as this meeting was actually constructive. "I think that if the Russian capital were moved to Surgut, all questions would be solved faster and easier," Kuchma summed up.

Talks Held With Belarus on Formulating Border Issues

AU0403120893 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 2 Mar 93 p 2

[Report by Major Anatoliy Samarchenko, associate at the Press Service of Ukraine's Border Troops: "Delimitation—Definition of Borders"]

[Text] In accordance with the agreement reached between Ukraine and the Republic of Belarus on cooperating on border and customs issues, a Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers decree has created a Ukrainian delegation to the joint commission for the delimitation and demarcation of the state border.

The delegation held its first meeting at Ukraine's State Committee for Borders. It discussed the preparation for the first round of talks with the Belarusian delegation that will, quite soon, take place in Minsk. The joint commission is planning to begin work on the delimitation and demarcation of the state border in spring. As emphasized by Colonel General V. Hubenko, chairman of Ukraine's State Committee for Borders and commander of Ukraine's Border Troops, it is only a matter of legal formulation of questions concerning the border between our states.

Allegations of Posts on Belarus Border 'Refuted'

LD0303173893 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2300 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] There will be no border posts between Ukraine and Belarus. This was stressed in an interview with the press by General Yuriy Babanskiy, deputy head of the State Committee on Defense Matters of Ukraine's Borders. By this report he refuted information in a Belarus popular newspaper that supposedly our state has begun building posts on the border with Belarus. Yuriy Babanskiy stressed that over these last few days negotiations have been held on questions of the demilitarization and demarcation of the border between the two states. Both sides were satisfied with their results.

Official Delegation's Consultations With NATO Viewed

AU0303173293 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 26 Feb 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Ukraine—NATO: Political Consultations"]

[Text] On 23 and 24 February, political consultations were held in Brussels between Ukraine and NATO. Among the participants were Dmytro Pavlychko, chairman of the Supreme Council Standing Commission for Foreign Affairs; Borys Tarasyuk, deputy minister of foreign affairs and chairman of the National Committee for Questions of Disarmament; Serhiy Pyrozhkov, director of the National Institute for Strategic Studies; and other Ukrainian officials. NATO was represented by members of the North Atlantic Alliance Political Committee.

Dmytro Pavlychko pointed this out: Our delegation arrived here in order to explore possibilities for Ukraine's closer cooperation with NATO within the framework of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council and to analyze interrelations between eastern European states.

One of the quite important questions that interest NATO is the interrelations between Ukraine and its neighbors, in particular, Russia. Here, we would like to clarify our position. It lies in the fact that Ukraine will build its interrelations with other states without making any sacrifices, as was the case before, but on the basis of equality and a fair partnership.

Of course, he continued, the question of offering security guarantees to Ukraine by NATO countries remains on the agenda. We demand guarantees in the form of interstate agreements, first and foremost, between Ukraine and Russia and between Ukraine and NATO countries.

Tarasyuk Reports Visit

LD0303202093 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Summary] A briefing for Ukrainian and foreign journalists took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on 2 March. Borys Tarasyuk, deputy minister of foreign affairs and chairman of the National Committee for Issues of Disarmament, spoke about the recent visit by a Ukrainian delegation to NATO headquarters in Brussels.

"In particular, he emphasized that the visit to NATO headquarters, which took place on 23-24 February, was carried out by Ukraine's delegation with the aim of further stepping up cooperation between our state and NATO. Mr. Tarasyuk is convinced that an exchange of opinions between the military and political leadership of the North Atlantic bloc and Ukrainian parliamentarians and diplomats, and meetings with ambassadors of member countries of this bloc, have made marked progress in strengthening the European security system, normalizing relations between CIS countries, and made clear the position of our state in its attitude to the armed conflict in the former Yugoslavia, and so on."

As far as the principles of Ukraine's participation in the North Atlantic Council and contacts with NATO are concerned, and how this is connected with the non-bloc principle declared by Ukraine's parliament, Borys Tarasyuk said:

[Begin Tarasyuk recording] There are no contradictions here. Truly Ukraine is not, and today cannot be a member of any kind of military-political organization or union. But this does not to any extent hamper Ukraine's participation in the activity of some or other international organization, including those of a military-political tendency, not as a member, but as an observer, or an associate member. [end recording]

Borys Tarasyuk also went to Strasbourg, where meetings were held with the leadership of the Council of Europe and ambassadors of member countries. Ways of Ukraine entering the Council of Europe as a fully-fledged member were discussed.

[Begin Tarasyuk recording] The leadership of the Council of Europe is well acquainted with the situation in Ukraine, and is striving to extend cooperation between Ukraine and the Council of Europe. In particular, accords were reached on extending and intensifying cooperation. It was proposed that Ukraine take an active part in nearly all of the main committees of this organization. In fact, if this proposal is implemented, Ukraine will enter all of the structures. We hope that all conditions for Ukraine to enter the Council of Europe will be created this year. [end recording]

Regarding Boris Yeltsin's recent speech at the Civic Union congress on 28 February, Tarasyuk said:

[Begin Tarasyuk recording] The proposal that international organizations, including the United Nations, should give Russia special powers as a guarantor of peace and stability in the countries of the former Union appears very strange. Ukraine cannot agree to any state having any kind of rights on its territory without its agreement. [end recording]

Andriy Ozadovskyy, Ukraine's ambassador at large, reported at the briefing on his visit to neighboring Moldova, which he carried out with the aim of ensuring the civil rights of the 6,000-strong Ukrainian community there.

Report on Press Conference by Crimean Parliament Speaker

MK0403100893 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Mar 93 p 2

[Aleksandr Pilat report: "It Is Time To Get Down to Economics"]

[Text] The press conference by Nikolay Bagrov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Crimea, was devoted to his latest trip as part of a Ukrainian Government delegation to countries of Central Asia—Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan, and also a separate trip by a Crimean delegation to the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia). According to Nikolay Bagrov, the aim of the trip was to restore lost economic links and establish new ones. The discussions covered supplies of fuel, energy, nonferrous metals, fabrics, cotton, and grain to Ukraine and Crimea. These were talks at an interstate level. A whole series of documents was adopted: long-term agreements covering the next five years, and one on trade exchanges just for 1993.

Discussion of the issue of assisting the return to Crimea of deported peoples, primarily the Crimean Tatars, Nikolay Bagrov noted, revealed several approaches. It was agreed in the end that 50 percent of costs would be borne by Ukraine and 50 percent by Central Asia and Russia. Uzbekistan, with the largest population of Crimean Tatars, pledged to make available 30 percent of the overall sum, which amounts to 7 billion rubles at current prices. Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan will contribute 4 percent each, and the remaining 12 percent will be supplied by Russia.

An interstate agreement was signed between the Sakha and Crimean republics. In 1993 Yakutia will invest over 1 billion rubles in the economy of the peninsula, primarily in providing equipment for tuberculosis sanatoria.

Nikolay Bagrov stressed that the Crimean parliament must now deal with the economy in a radical manner. "I am ready to sit down at the negotiating table with all the parties and movements in the peninsula," Bagrov said, "to discuss the imposition of a moratorium on their political activity. I think that this is paramount today."

Ministry Creates Fund for Developing Diplomatic Network

AU0203161593 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 25 Feb 93 p 3

[Editorial: "Property Abroad Will Be Quite Expensive"]

[Text] **Ukrainian diplomatic missions already function in 17 countries of the world, but the situation is such that we cannot obtain our share of foreign assets of the former USSR. How, in this case, can we expand the diplomatic service network if we have no property abroad? Ukrainian diplomats are compelled to be squeezed into small rooms allocated to them by Russia, and they may, at any moment, be "asked" to leave. This particularly applies to the Ukrainian mission in Geneva where a basement room of 16 square meters has been allocated to us on the premises of the former USSR permanent mission at international organizations. The same picture can also be observed in Germany, in the Czech Republic, and in other states. If Ukraine fails to come to an agreement with Russia, it will have to buy premises for diplomatic missions abroad on its own. The Cabinet of Ministers allotted money for purchasing buildings in Washington, Brussels, and Paris. However, this is very expensive. For example, the premises in Washington cost our state $4.6 billion. Today, according to modest estimates, the maintenance of one Ukrainian diplomat abroad costs between $40,000 and $48,000 [period of time not specified]. Ten cities abroad have been pointed out as priority ones, where it would be worthwhile having property. Where to get money for developing external political activity if the country is short of hard currency?**

It is precisely for this purpose that the recently created Fund for Promoting the Development of Ukraine's Diplomatic Service will serve. Deputy Ministers of Foreign Affairs Yuriy Rylach and Oleksandr Makarenko, and also chief of the Currency and Finance Administration at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Volodymyr Kosyy told about its activity at the Press Center of Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The fund is being created to procure capital from state institutions, enterprises, public, and other organizations, and individual citizens of Ukraine and abroad for the development of the external political service. The capital will be used for strengthening and developing the material and technological base of our state's diplomatic institutions; for purchasing houses as Ukraine's property; for household expenses meant for maintaining and repairing embassies and official and living quarters; for restructuring the entire information provision of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and for other purposes.

Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the manager of the Fund's tax-free capital. It has opened the following national currency accounts: No. 1609123, MFO 300034, and OPERU at the AK "Ukraine" bank; in freely convertible currency: No. 013070575 at the same bank at the following address: 252007, Kiev, 12, Zhovtnevoyi Revolyutsiyi Street.

Officials Reach Agreement With Hungary on Border Transfer

AU0303133393 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 26 Feb 93 p 5

[Mykola Horvat commentary: "An Agreement Has Been Reached on the Transfer of Persons"]

[Text] **On the eve of Ukraine President Kravchuk's visit to Hungary, an agreement was ratified in Uzhhorod between the governments of the two states on the transfer and reception of persons across the joint state border. This was stated at the Uzhhorod office of Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.**

It is no secret that in recent years former USSR citizens have literally overrun countries of Western Europe by using both legal and illegal routes. However, a real plague for our neighbors—Hungary, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Poland, and Romania—has been caused by numerous attempts to illegally cross the border with the help of citizens from so-called third countries, not our compatriots. There are even people that "specialize" in forming groups of residents from Vietnam, Korea, China, and so on to illegally transfer them across the border. This year alone, Ukrainian border guards have detained approximately a dozen of such "tourists." However, many others succeed in achieving their goal. In neighboring states, these so-called refugees are accommodated in special settlements. After examining the circumstances, the majority of them are sent back to those countries from which they illegally "sailed." So far, the procedure of such transfers has involved great difficulties. To this day, there have been no documents to regulate this process. The Hungarian side, which already has such agreements with many countries, has proposed a way to overcome this shortcoming.

Officers' Transfer From Russia Allegedly Hampered

AU0403123593 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 2 Mar 93 p 2

[Statement issued by the Press Service of Ukraine's Border Troops in Kiev; date not given: "Officers Are Returning, But...."]

[Text] Since the beginning of 1992 up until now, approximately 900 border guard officers who served outside the motherland returned to Ukraine. However, this is only one-third of the number of officers whose transfer to Ukraine's Border Troops has been requested.

As stated by Major General Viktor Shuhaliy, chief of the cadres administration at Ukraine's State Committee for Borders, about 2,000 of our compatriots continue against their will to serve in the border troops of Russia and other states of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Despite the corresponding directive by Ukraine's president and the interstate agreements, they are being prevented from being transferred to their motherland. Many of them are not even informed that requests on them arrived from Ukraine and, therefore, officers are completely unaware of their future fate. The administration of cadres at the State Committee for Borders is presently deluged with telegrams from Central Asia, the Transcaucasus, and other regions in which high-ranking officials state that "for the time being, the transfer of border guard officers to Ukraine's Border Troops does not appear possible due to the lack of replacement for them." However, nobody can say when this replacement will be available because not even in a month of Sundays is it possible to find people willing to go from Russia to serve in the warring Transcaucasus or the region of combat actions at the Afghan border.

Nor are those officers who managed by fair means or foul to get an authorization for their return to the motherland in a better situation. For example, approximately 100 officers have not been able to leave for Ukraine from the Transcaucasus for a long time because the command of their units refuses to give them assistance. Moreover, the officers are often accused of being deserters and traitors....

By contrast, the attitude toward border guard officers in Ukraine is entirely different. Over the past year, approximately 150 persons expressed a desire to continue their service in the border troops of Russia or other CIS countries. As of today, all of them have left home.

Organization of Romanian Ethnic Minority Set Up

AU0303174793 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1453 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 3/3/1993—The Christian-Democratic Alliance of the Romanians in Ukraine, seated in Cernauti, has become legal.

The alliance has a wide audience among the Romanians in northern Bucovina (Ukraine) and will thus be enabled to participate in future elections in Ukraine, to establish cooperation relations with all societies and organizations of the Romanians everywhere, as well as with other political and social organizations in Ukraine and abroad.

The alliance's main intention is to protect the interests and legitimate rights of the Romanians in Ukraine, to fight for the salvation and re-birth of Romanianism [as received], national cultural and spiritual traditions, and to contribute to the cultivation of Christian moral values.

Turkish Envoy Meets With Crimean Turkish Community

OW0203204293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1905 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Turkey will consider aiding Ukraine financially in repatriation of Crimean Tatars who were deported from the peninsula in 1944, said Acar Germen, Turkey's ambassador in Ukraine at a meeting with Nikolay Bagrov, Chairman of the Crimean parliament in Simferopol.

Germen discussed the problems facing the Turkish speaking diaspora in Ukraine with the students and faculty of the Crimean Tartar department of the Simferopol University School of Philology.

On Tuesday [2 March] Germen will meet Mustafa Dzhamilev, Chairman of the Crimean Tatar Majlis.

National Affairs

Cabinet Bans Sale of Gasoline for Private Cars

AU0303200293 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 2 Mar 93 p 2

[Statement by the Press Service of Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers: "Fuel—for Public Needs Only"]

[Text] In connection with the extremely tense situation that has taken shape in Ukraine with regard to petroleum products, the Cabinet of Ministers has obliged the Council of Ministers of the Crimean Republic and oblast, Kiev, and Sevastopol city state administrations, during the period between 1 and 31 March, to allocate 80 percent of automobile gasoline and diesel fuel for consumers in agriculture and 20 percent for vital needs of cities and towns, having forbidden the sale of the fuel to individual owners of automobiles.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs and the State Committee for Oil and Gas have been commissioned to establish strict controls over the fulfillment of this directive.

Parliament To Discuss START I Treaty in Mid-March

OW0303141393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1355 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Preparations for the ratification of the START-1 treaty will be discussed by Ukraine's parliament at a closed session during mid-March, according to a statement by Parliament Speaker Ivan Plyushch Wednesday [3 March]. Plyushch said that progress with conversion and the talks between Ukraine and Russia on the division of the Black Sea Fleet would also be discussed at the closed session.

Ukraine is the only one of the former USSR's nuclear states yet to ratify the START-1 treaty.

Working Group Discusses START, Nuclear Nonproliferation

AU0303174593 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 26 Feb 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Work on 'START'"]

[Text] On 25 February, at its scheduled meeting, a working group of deputies dealing with questions of the ratification of START I and the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty by Ukraine's Supreme Council discussed political and legal questions of the elimination of nuclear weapons. Conclusions made by experts regarding the political and legal aspects of Ukraine's nuclear disarmament were discussed together with a number of interstate legal acts.

It was decided to hold an open meeting of the working group jointly with experts, representatives of bodies of executive power that are involved in the problem of nuclear disarmament, and journalists accredited to Ukraine's Supreme Council.

Supreme Council Plenary Meeting Ends

LD0303183693 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Excerpts] A plenary meeting of the Ukrainian Supreme Council has ended. Today the deputies worked in accordance with the agenda determined on the eve of the session and cleaned up their household, as it were. Some of the issues have already been examined in parliament. These are the issues on the withdrawal and allocation of plots of land for non-agricultural needs and on the protection of fauna. These draft laws were submitted today at the second reading and were finally adopted.

Many points on the agenda had to do with introducing changes and amendments to acts adopted earlier, and harmonizing the latter with the current legislation. The parliament also resolved its internal matters, for example those on the certificate of a people's deputy of Ukraine and insignia worn on the breast. Our deputies will have new insignia by 1 July.

The proposal by the office of the procurator-general and a Supreme Council commission on permitting deputy procurators of big cities to sanction an arrest, as well as changes in the law on military duty and military service in respect of compulsory initial military training at educational institutions, were among the issues debated longest. It was resolved that the debate on them continue at commissions.

Another proposal by the law-enforcement people, that on individual court examination, was adopted at its first reading. It was also resolved that Ukrainian diplomatic missions be opened in another 26 states, with diplomatic relations having been established between the latter and our state. In all, 10 agenda points were examined in parliament today. [passage omitted]

Tomorrow the deputies will continue the work at the plenary meeting.

Parliament Discusses Measures To Stabilize Economy

OW0403121793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1100 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Thursday [4 March] morning, the Ukrainian parliament discussed the implementation of the resolution on the socio-economic situation and on measures to stabilize the economy, to provide the population with social guarantees and to perfect the work of parliament, adopted on January 27, 1993.

Vice-Premier and Economic Minister Viktor Pynzenyk said that if implemented, the proposals on tax breaks, made by individual deputies and by the parliament's commissions, would lead to a budget deficit of 4.5

trillion karbovantsy. This, he said, would cause uncontrollable inflation and undermine the stabilization program.

He also said that according to the government's estimates, in 1993 the budget will amount to 9.1 trillion karbovantsy and spending—to 10.7 trillion karbovantsy.

On Thursday, the Ukrainian parliament will also discuss candidacies to the post of chairman of the Customs Committee, debate Ukraine's Air Code and take up a number of other issues.

First Signs of 'Possible Stabilization' Appear

LD0303202893 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] The first signs of possible stabilization have appeared in the Ukrainian economy. Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Pynzenyk stated this at a news conference in Kiev today. According to him, this is shown in some wage adjustments (?and) a reduction in the portion of undisposed funds. He considers the fact that over the last three weeks the exchange rate of the dollar in relation to the karbovanets has remained unchanged to be a positive phenomenon. At the same time he noted that the Russian side's continuous price hikes for energy carriers obliges the government to undertake unpopular measures, in particular in taxation policy.

Security Officers in Lvov Dissatisfied With Superiors

AU0303174293 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 26 Feb 93 p 1

[Article by Bohdan Kushnir, MOLOD UKRAYINY special correspondent: "Special Services Have Started Talking"]

[Text] Major General Vasyl Horbatyuk, new chief of Ukraine's Security Service Administration for Lvov Oblast, arrived in the city of Lion [Lvov] with special powers. First of all, he is expected to sort out the conflict with the local authorities and establish order in the special services. However, while settling the former problem, he may fail to resolve the latter one, notwithstanding the fact that he remains deputy chief of Ukraine's Security Service.

In the very near future, about 40 officials of the administration will have to resign, among them Colonel Yuriy Isayev, head of the main department of counterintelligence, who has himself written his letter of resignation. However, it was not even this that gave rise to dissatisfaction on the part of the administration subunits for Lvov Oblast. Those cadre officers of the special services to whom we spoke believe that General Horbatyuk has enlisted the services of the wrong people. All of a sudden, people who never even entertained the idea of Ukrainian statehood, not to mention their attitude toward the state language, were promoted. Incidentally, Ukrainian General Horbatyuk who, it seems to me, comes from Khmelnytskyy Region, has not abandoned his old habit and still writes his resolutions in Russian.

Ponomaryov, Filipov, Honcharov, and Bazhanov are among the newly promoted people who have been proposed for leading positions in the administration. Our informants were particularly surprised that O. Pomomaryov is a prospective deputy chief of the administration, because the scandalous story of his work with foreigners is not only well known to veterans of the collective, but also to Horbatyuk himself.

Among the new proteges, there are not only no locals, but not even Ukrainians. Therefore, the legitimate question arises: What state will be built and with whom in the Security Service Administration for Lvov Oblast?

At present, the majority of administrations have direct ties with the Russian special services. Cadre officers do not even conceal the fact that they are using the information base of the Russian Security Ministry. Will it happen one day that they will be asked to stand under the banners of the "one and indivisible," in view of the services rendered by Mr. Holushko, who used to be Ukraine's KGB chief and is currently Russia's first deputy minister of security?

Such scenarios are also possible. However, it is also obvious that the special services will not keep silent as they did in previous years. This is indicated by information on possible appointments that is leaking from within the closed department and by the anxiety that has seized Ukraine's Security Service Administration for Lvov Oblast. Even though the new chief has introduced suggestion boxes, his subordinates, for some reason, have appealed to the press for assistance.

Group To Work on Crimea Becoming Free Economic Zone

AU0303181893 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 26 Feb 93 p 8

[Unattributed commentary: "Looking for a Place Under the Sun"]

[Text] **A concept for a free economic zone in the Crimea has been elaborated. A group for the purpose of preparing the constituent documents for the zone began to meet at the Council of Ministers of the autonomous republic. There already are many people willing to invest their capital in implementing programs that are being contemplated.**

The American firm UTEX (the state of Texas) has declared its readiness to finance the building of a large port in the west of the republic. The investment company "Start" (West Germany), considers the eastern coast of the Crimea to be a very promising health resort place, and is also ready to invest in its development.

Businessmen in Great Britain, Italy, the PRC, and many other foreign countries both near and far are also interested.

Specialists consider the creation of a free economic zone on the peninsula very promising. Of course, investors need, first and foremost, political stability. After the powers are divided between the organs of state power of Ukraine and the Crimean Republic and after the appropriate amendments are made in the constitutions and legislation of the two republics, stability will become a reality. The Crimeans must now prepare the necessary normative acts with regard to property, privatization, and the utilization of land, and must devise a system for preferential taxation and preferential customs regulations.

Specialists are regarding the Crimean free economic zone as a complex of local zones of dissimilar type. In their opinion, Kerch, Feodosiya, and the Chornomorske settlement should become powerful transport and storage zones. They will receive and dispatch large amounts of cargo. Sevastopol will be a local zone with a production profile—its powerful defense complex will be converted to manufacturing radio technology, electronic household appliances, computers, and so on. Retail trade with a free circulation of currency will be conducted on the southern coast of the Crimea. Simferopol will be given the role of a "Wall Street"—a zone with preferential conditions for enterprises and institutions of the credit-bank system.

A key position in the system of management of the free economic zone will be given to its administration—a nongovernmental and noncommercial structure. It must, first and foremost, prepare a package of constituent documents and submit it to the organs of state power and then create a basis for business information and for the professional training and retraining of personnel.

Undoubtedly, unique possibilities are opening up today in the Crimea for radical socioeconomic transformations and for the development of the region as a world health-resort center. Nowhere else in Ukraine are there such possibilities. Not to allow revenge on the part of destructive political forces and not to miss a chance donated by history—this is what every resident of the peninsula must do today if he wants well-being and prosperity to prevail in the Crimea.

Commentary Ridicules Activity of National Assembly

AU0403085793 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 25 Feb 93 p 25

[Commentary by Anatoliy Rudenko: "A Drama or a Tragedy?"]

[Text] "Glory of the nation" and "death to enemies." These words sounded after every speech at the first regional conference of the Ukrainian National Assembly. It was also a kind of showing of the strength of the assembly's combat unit—the Ukrainian People's Self-Defense [UNSO]. Today, its ranks include up to 4,000 persons. Among their achievements is the resignation of V. Baziv, editor in chief of the newspaper ZA VILNU UKRAYINU, the manifestation in Lvov on 7 November, the burning down of communist attributes, and the armed defense of the Ukrainian population in the Dniester Region.

Oleh Vitovych, chief commander of the UNSO regional command, stated: "Nationalism has already grown far beyond its prescribed limits. We do not have enough room for action within Ukraine. It is our duty to protect the interests of Ukrainians in the Kuban Region, Tyumen, Bashkiriya, and Azerbaijan. Do not be surprised if our boys turn up in Abkhazia and Yugoslavia." Then the participants in the conference had the occasion to proceed from words to deeds. It became known to them that in the theater of the Ciscarpathian Military District, there gathered "antistate forces"—activists of Russian societies named after Pushkin and Sakharov to discuss the fate of a Russian drama theater that is the only one in Western Ukraine and the closing down of Russian schools in Lvov. A unit of UNSO combatants was urgently dispatched there, and then yet another one. They announced to those present that they were dispelling the "illegal" meetings, because the UNSO consider themselves the sole masters in this land. Never before did the theater see such a dramatic scene.

Justice Party Publishes Views on Nuclear Disarmament

AU0403114893 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 26 Feb 93 p 1

[Unattributed report published under the rubric "Fact"]

[Text] Ukraine's Justice Party [UPS—Ukrayinska Partiya Spravedlyvosti] has distributed an open letter in which it emphasizes the need to gradually destroy nuclear weapons to the level of "necessary defense." UPS called upon Ukraine's president and deputies of the Supreme Council to support the "zero variant": Ukraine does not need assistance to destruct nuclear weapons and, with some help from Russia (it has the obligation to provide author's services), it will gradually destroy its nuclear weapons on its own to the level of the necessary defense ensuring national security.

Kravchuk Issues Directive on Means of Self-Defense

AU2802184193 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 25 Feb 93 p 2

["Ukrainian Presidential Directive on Special Means for Self-Defense Charged with Substances That Have the Effect of Causing Tears or Irritation" issued in Kiev on 19 February]

[Text] To protect the life, health, honor, and dignity of citizens and their property from criminal encroachments,

Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers must do the following:

To resolve the question of selling batches of lacrymatory and irritation aerosols (gas canisters) to citizens;

To submit, within two weeks, for the consideration of Ukraine's Supreme Council, proposals concerning

a) putting gas pistols and revolvers, as well as cartridges for them charged with substances having lacrymatory and irritation effect on the list of types of property for which a special procedure has been established for citizens to acquire, on permission from organs of internal affairs, the right of ownership;

b) establishing responsibility for violations of the procedure for elaboration, manufacture, and registration of special means of self-defense, acquisition and registration of gas pistols and revolvers and cartridges for them, and the use of the aforementioned means for illegal purposes;

To establish a single procedure for elaborating, manufacturing, and utilizing special means of self-defense;

To approve the Statute on the Procedure for Acquiring, Registering, and Accounting Special Means of Self-Defense.

Investigators Appeal to Lawyers To End Strike

AU0303195993 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 26 Feb 93 p 3

["Appeal by investigators of Internal Affairs Organs to Ukraine's Lawyers"; place and date not given]

[Text] Investigators of internal affairs organs are extremely alarmed by the indefinite strike started in the Crimean Republic and Dnipropetrovsk and Kiev oblasts by members of lawyers associations, something that has considerably complicated the investigating of criminal cases and, which is the main thing, has led to a considerable limitation of constitutional rights that enable the defense of those citizens who are presently under investigation.

While understanding the complications that have recently emerged in the sphere of activity of lawyers, since we also have quite a number of unresolved problems, we investigators are categorically opposed to the method of resorting to strikes for resolving our own problems because it clashes with the interests of other groups of the population.

Ukraine's law "On the Legal Profession" has markedly raised the status of the counselor for defense during preliminary investigation. Recently, Ukraine's Supreme Council considered new proposals regarding the expansion of the rights of counselors for defense during preliminary investigation, proposals that proceeded mainly from the concern about the interests of citizens. The actions of the strikers are a real threat to these interests.

Appealing to the lawyers on strike in the Crimea and Dnipropetrovsk and Kiev oblasts to stop this dubious action, we, at the same time, appeal to all lawyers of Ukraine with a request to show more responsibility in fulfilling their duties before society and act in a balanced manner, even in the most acute situations.

If, in this difficult time, we lawyers, whose principal duty is loyal service to the people of Ukraine, choose to aspire precisely for this, we will thereby speed up the building of a rule-of-law state in the interests of the entire society.

On behalf of investigators of internal affairs organs of Ukraine's Ministry of Internal Affairs Main Investigation Department

Belarus

Shushkevich: Nuclear Energy Needed for Development

OW0303161593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1548 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the Belarusian parliament, Stanislav Shushkevich, predicts that soon local doctors will give up treating some diseases due to a lack of necessary medicines. He told veterans of the Minsk car works on Tuesday [2 March], that given the current budget deficit, the government was unable to provide the population with quality health services.

He said, however, that the authorities were doing everything they could to make the life of Belarusian citizens, above all pensioners, much better, and cited eight laws recently adopted by the parliament, which have to do with problems facing old and disabled people.

Among the privileges, granted to this category of citizens, he named free use of public transportation, and the right to a monthly annual paid leave. Disabled people have been granted the opportunity to have prosthetic appliances made for free. "The government spends a great deal of money on this," said Shushkevich. He pointed out, however, that during parliamentary discussion of pension laws, the veterans of the armed forces secured more privileges. "Now the pension of an army veteran is twice as great as that of a 'civil' pensioner," he said.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: Today, veterans' pensions range from 4,000 to 18,000 rubles.

Speaking about priority areas of the Belarusian economy, Shushkevich put a special emphasis on nuclear power and agriculture. "I'm well aware that following the Chernobyl tragedy, the population resents the idea of having another nuclear power plant," said Sushkevich. "Believe me, we have no other choice, whether we like it or not," he added. "Without the development of nuclear energy, the Belarusian economy will not survive," said Shushkevich.

Touching upon the problems facing agriculture, he said that he does not advocate the idea of destroying state and collective farms. He noted, however, that agriculture should be approached from a different angle. The situation, whereby Belarus buys fodder grain for hard currency, and sells meat for rubles and at a price much lower than the cost of the fodder, is absurd, said Shushkevich. Asked about the current privatization of housing, Shushkevich said that "privatization cannot be fair for all." Parliament will look for a more flexible way of privatizing housing," he said.

Foreign Minister on Policy Prospects, Future Ties

LD0303181593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1015 GMT 3 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 3 March—Belarus may become neutral by the end of the current decade, when strategic nuclear weapons have been completely removed from its territory, if it manages not to join any political and military-strategic blocs and unions. This was stated by Belarus Foreign Minister Petr Kravchanka in an interview to the DIPLOMATICHESKIY KURYER, a new publication of the ITAR-TASS agency. The minister stated that the Belarus leadership is considering the possibility and the necessity to integrate into the Common Market. "This is a prospect for 12-15, maybe 20 years," he said. The essence of the Belarusian approach is that it is not one republic, but the CIS that will join the Common Market.

Belarus has no separatist or secessionist ambitions whatsoever, Petr Kravchanka underlined. "We favor a high degree of sovereignty in the political sphere, but we understand better than anyone the necessity of the existence of the Commonwealth, which should be effective in the economic sphere, first and foremost," the minister said. The republic therefore favors forming—together with Russia, Kazakhstan, and other interested countries—new market relations, new quality of the economy, and new quality of life in the center of Europe and in the east of the continent.

The minister described relations between Russia and Belarus as "almost perfect." There are no complications or aggravating factors in them. Negotiations on dividing the foreign property of the former USSR are currently under way, and they are not easy, but everything is proceeding in a calm and civilized way, he believes. "And in the coming period also, I cannot foresee anything that could provoke friction in our relations," Petr Kravchanka stated.

Comments on Future EEC Structure

WS0403092293 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0800 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Report attributed to DIPLOMATICHESKIY KURYER, ITAR-TASS herald]

[Excerpts] Belarusian Minister of Foreign Affairs Petr Kravchanka said in an interview to a DIPLOMATICHESKIY KURYER correspondent that Belarus could become neutral by the end of the century, when the withdrawal of strategic nuclear arms from its territory would finally be completed. [passage omitted]

In his opinion, the CIS will sooner or later be transformed into a new market structure, which at the beginning will not be as developed as Western ones. It would mean that two geopolitical and economic unions will exist in Europe. The EEC will first be composed of 12, then of 16, and finally of 24 countries. Belarus may become the 23d or the 25th star on the blue European banner. It will happen no sooner than 2005. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Suggests Army Not Participate in Politics

WS0403072593 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 1103 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] Belarusian Minister of Defense Colonel-General Pavel Kozlovskiy has suggested that Army personnel be prohibited from participating in political activities or belonging to parties, movements, or public organizations, even in their free time. He proposed that amendments be introduced to the appropriate article of the Belarusian law "On the Status of Servicemen" which reads, that servicemen can participate in political activities in their free time. The Supreme Soviet Committee for National Security, Defense, and Combating Crime supported the minister. The decision now rests with the Supreme Soviet.

Kravchanka, Malescanu on Prospects for Bilateral Relations

WS0303153593 Minsk Belaruskaje Television Network in Belarusian 1900 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Malescanu is finishing his official visit to Belarus. On 2 March, the chief of the Romanian Foreign Ministry was received by Sergey Ling, first deputy chairman of the Presidium of the Belarusian Cabinet of Ministers. Both parties stressed that the basis for the future development of bilateral relations in the various spheres of human activities has been established. A message from Romanian President Ion Iliescu was delivered to Belarusian Supreme Council Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich during his talk with the Romanian foreign minister. The parties pointed out that the two countries were close to the conclusion of an all embracing political agreement. Teodor Malescanu stressed that Romania is preparing to receive Stanislav Shushkevich on an official visit. He added that the legislative chairman will be accorded a hearty welcome.

Later, on 2 March, a joint Belarusian-Romanian press conference was held to sum up the results of a three day visit of Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Malescanu to Belarus. Belarusian Foreign Minister Petr Kravchanka represented the Belarusian side. Both ministers stressed the all embracing nature of the Minsk talks. The parties were sure that the concluded agreements, including the signed documents, will serve as a solid basis for the development and strengthening of Belarusian-Romanian relations. The agreement on cooperation, laying the political basis for Belarusian-Romanian relations, which was initialed on 1 March 1993, is the next step in this direction. With regard to the direct bilateral contacts, they have lately become politically mature and, according to Petr Kravchanka, can serve as a true example for Europe. Both parties are striving to achieve an equal and real partnership. In addition, they have common ideas about the means of integrating into the European Community which could promote a higher standard of living in Belarus and Romania. Teodor Malescanu characterized the bilateral relations as good neighbor relations and stressed the good organization of all the official talks. The ministers underlined their wish to cooperate, especially because Belarus and Romania are currently moving towards a market and the economy plays a leading role in life. The growth of industrial production, creation of joint ventures, and other concrete ideas which could be realized in the nearest future are on the agenda. Attention should also be paid to science, culture, and health protection issues.

Plans To Guard Borders With Baltic States Viewed

LD0303170393 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] According to Major General Yevgeniy Bocharov, commander of border troops of Belarus, formation of two border detachments in the direction of the Baltics is coming to an end. The operational troop method will be used here which would exclude military engineering systems and barriers. A border zone of 15 to 20 kilometers deep is intended to be drawn up with a special procedure for residence and movement of its inhabitants. As the general stressed, the necessity to guard the borders first is caused by the need to defend the republic's economic interests. A similar border procedure will be set up with Ukraine.

Moldova

Snegur Receives Romanian Intelligence Head Magureanu

AU0303191493 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1857 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 3/3/1993—President Mircea Snegur of the Republic of Moldova met Wednesday, 3 March, with Virgil Magureanu, chief of the Romanian Intelligence Service (SRI) for an exchange of views on the relations between the Republic of Moldova and Romania in the context of the latest developments in the two countries and in the international arena.

Both sides expressed their attachment to the democratization processes in the world and to promoting an active policy of peace and non-interference in the domestic affairs of other states.

'Energy War' With Russia Having 'Disruptive Impact'

AU0303111493 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2100 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS 3/3/1993—The forecast of the experts declared that the provisions of energy resources for Moldova could have been conditioned by the unpredictable evolution of the Russian economy. This fact offered surprises to all partners and came to be true.

The energy war between Russia and Ukraine started as a result of the ultimatum submitted to Ukraine by the State Concern "Gazoprom" of the Russian Federation can have an unpredictable impact stated Mihai Lesnic, prime director of the Department of Gasification of Moldova to a BASAPRESS correspondent. The quoting of pipelines from Ukraine to Europe and from Russia to Ukraine occurred because the government in Kiev refused to pay for the costs of lubricants at world prices. Observers state that the implications of such an energy crisis could spell catastrophe for Moldova. In fact, experts reveal that the energy crisis have a long-term disruptive impact on Moldavia's economy. Only 40 to 50 percent of lubricants needed for the economy are covered. According to statistics the use of petrol for the last few years has been reduced by 2 to 5 times, Diesel-oil and coal twice, fuel oil by 1.7 times and the consumption of natural gas has been cut by more than 400 million cubic meters. This January, because of the shortage of raw materials and energy which caused much stagnation in productivity, goods estimated at the value of 729 million rubles were not produced.

At a meeting held on February 22 between the government and the Independent Trade Union Federation, President Snegur claimed that the situation was deteriorating. Representatives of the master organisation were also present. The President indicated that most raw materials being imported (?were) restricted to certain conditions. Moldova imports 98 percent of the provision of energy, points out the daily news paper PACEA CIVICA. The MP Victor Morev, member of the Socialist Party, affirms in his turn that government data indicate basic branches of industry depend on energy resources and raw materials from CIS countries in a ratio between 80-90 percent.

The monopoly upon the export energy to Moldova permits Russia to dictate the conditions from a powerful position, thus breaking formerly approved agreements. Even the state delivery of petrol for 1993 is only 100,000 tonnes according to the business newspaper in Chisinau LOGOS PRESS. Russia included a reciprocal delivery of only 70,000 tonnes. Moldova could benefit from another 30,000 tonnes mentioned in the contract only after paying custom tax of 40 ECU [European currency units] for each tonnes. At the same time, sources close to the government indicated that the export of fuel combustion to Moldova is a quarter of the necessary volume.

The Russian Federation will introduce custom taxes on the export of natural gas amounting to 0.02 US $ for each cubic meter. The excessive price of energy, has induced a disaster situation for the new independent states of the former Soviet Union. Moldova, in order to cover the need of fuels will have to pay over 340 billion rubles in 1993. According to some sources close to the Ministry of Finance, those expenses could become 500 billion rubles.

In the general context of the energy crisis, the government intentions to stop building a port at Giurgiulesti appears as an open door to gain energy resources from the West. In addition to that, Moldova will participate in the building of the second generator of the atomic power station from Cernavoda/Romania. Moldova organises constructions in Tiumen regions in exchange for petrol products and timber. The situation remains unpredictable and any time can offer surprises. This is despite the fact that 80 percent of Moldova's needs are covered on a contractual basis and by government agreements. According to the forecasts of the experts, there is a reduction in the delivery of fuel combustion to Moldova of 16-20 percent of the required amount. This is exactly what would lead to the stagnation of production in metallurgical industry, the machine construction industry, construction materials and food production industry. In turn, the unemployment rate could rise to 30-35 percent of the working population.

Kazakhstan

Responsibilities of Leaders Further Defined

LD0403000293 Alma-Ata KAZTAG in Russian 1600 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] Who does what among the republic's top leaders? President Nursultan Nazarbayev has issued an order allocating duties to the vice president, the prime minister, the deputy prime ministers, the head of the president's apparatus, and the Cabinet of Ministers. In connection with this, the head of state's previous order on this issue loses its force.

And so who is doing what amongst the republic's top leaders? Vice President Yerik Asanbayev, with the authorization of the president, fulfills his individual functions and stands in for him when he is absent. The duties of the vice president also include analysis of the implementation of the strategy for the establishment and development of Kazakhstan as a sovereign state, the preparation of proposals on the mechanisms for the implementation of economic strategy, the improvement and development of market institutions and market legislation, aamd the working out of a new ideology and organization to resolve the accommodation problem and promote the social protection of the population. He is the head of the Commission for State Awards.

Premier Sergey Tereshchenko is directly in charge of the activities of the Cabinet of Ministers. He coordinates the work on the economic and social development of the republic done by ministries, departments, state concerns, and other state-administered bodies, oblast heads and the heads of the Alma-Ata and Leninskiy town administrations, as well as the organization of foreign economic relations. He is also in charge of implementing the government's anti-crisis program, the National Council for Economic Transformation, and issues pertaining to the agro-industrial complex and the provision of foodstuffs.

First Vice Premier Daulet Sembayev is occupied with issues relating to the implementation of radical economic reform. His functions also include the coordination of the activities of ministries and departments and the heads of oblast administrations regarding the implementation of the program for transition to a market economy; amd increasing the efficiency and improving the organizational structure of state-administered bodies. He is in charge of working out the republic's budget, the forecasts and figures and control of its implementation, and the formation of financial, pricing and currency policy; he controls the republic's balance of payments, foreign debt and currency regulation; issues of employment, labor and salaries, and the social protection of the population; the coordination of activities between ministries and departments, and the international financial and economic organizations.

Deputy Prime Minister Galym Abilsiitov has been tasked with matters of developing and implementing the state's scientific-technological policy, and with organizing the development and implementation of national, special-purpose and cross-sector scientific and scientific-technological programs and projects; with matters of developing scientific-technological progress and ensuring that there are technological breakthroughs, and of coordinating, planning and funding scientific research; with managing the operation of the Ministry of Science and coordinating the activity of ministries and departments on matters of scientific-technological policy and technological development; with matters of information technology, of conducting scientific research and experimental design work for defense needs, and of conversion of defense scientific-technological complexes and enterprises; and with coordinating training, retraining and qualifications for scientific and science-teaching personnel.

Asygat Zhabagin works on general and operational matters of state management of the material production, transport, communications, and construction sectors and of foreign economic relations. He coordinates ministries' activities with regard to making the republic self-sufficient in energy.

Zhanibek Karibzhanov: His functions include implementation of the national program for denationalizing and privatizing property, the development of non-state forms of ownership, the implementation of anti-monopoly policy, the administration of state property, and the management of the State Committee for Managing State Property.

Kuanysh Sultanov has been charged with the affairs of culture, arts, education, health care, information, the press, archives, tourism and sport; with issues of studying and forecasting sociopolitical processes, and of religion and interethnic relations; and with maintaining relations with the creative associations and with sociopolitical and youth organizations.

Nurtay Abykayev, head of the apparatus of the president and Cabinet of Ministers, is in charge of organizing the work of the apparatus supporting the activity of the president and Cabinet of Ministers, of developing personnel policy, and of considering and making proposals on personnel appointed by the head of state and government.

By order of the president, the following system of interchangeability of the leaders of the Cabinet of Ministers has been laid down: Sergey Tereshchenko—Daulet Sembayev and Asygat Zhabagin; Daulet Sembayev—Zhanibek Karibzhanov; Asygat Zhabagin—Galym Abilsiitov; Kuanysh Sultanov—Galym Abilsiitov.

Border Troop Cooperation Agreement Signed With Russia

PM0303131793 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 3 Mar 93 p 2

[Viktor Romanchin report: "All Quiet Along the Border"]

[Text] Russian Federation Minister of Security Viktor Barannikov and Kazakhstan's Minister of Security Bulat Bayakenov have signed an agreement on cooperation and collaboration on border issues in Alma-Ata. Both sides appraise this agreement as a sound basis for further cooperation between Russia's and Kazakhstan's Border Troops to ensure security and stability along the two friendly states' external border.

We were told at the Border Troops Press Office that the agreement offers broad opportunities for collaboration between the border troops in matters of service organization, improvement of border guards' professional training, and material and technical supplies. It also envisages specific measures for the social and legal protection of servicemen. Specifically, the sides will collaborate with each other in the acquisition of officer cadres by the Border Troops and will not obstruct the transfer of servicemen from the Russian Federation Border Troops to Kazakhstan's Border Troops and vice versa.

The agreement envisages that each side will grant to persons serving in its Border Troops and members of their families the right to rest, health care, social security, housing, and education to the same extent as that enjoyed by its own citizens.

It grants freedom of choice of residence on retirement from military service, as well as pension provision and other benefits under the pension laws of the state of residence.

Trade, Economic Cooperation Discussed With German Officials

LD0303212893 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 1500 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] The concrete issues of the development of trade and economic relations between Kazakhstan and the German Republic were discussed in the course of negotiations between Federal Economic Minister Guenter Rexrodt and Supreme Kenges Chairman Serikbolsyn Abdildin, head of the parliamentary delegation currently visiting Bonn. The talks were held in a friendly atmosphere. The meeting participants confirmed their interest in further expansion and improvement of relations between Germany and Kazakhstan in different fields of the economy as well as the banking business. Such cooperation began several years ago. In the course of negotiations it was decided that the regular third meeting of the German-Kazakhstan Council of Cooperation would be held during 1993 or the beginning of the next year. The head of the Kazakhstan delegation showed great interest in the question of structure and organization of economy. Serikbolsyn Abdildin expressed his intention to use German economic knowledge for the development of industry in his own country. Cooperation of the German Federal Department on Credits for the purpose of the development and [word indistinct] bank in Kazakhstan were also discussed. In this connection the parliamentary delegation expressed their interest in further development of such cooperation. The German side pointed out the necessity of further improvement of the banking business in Kazakhstan.

Kyrgyzstan

Parties Criticize Decision To Replace Cabinet of Ministers

OW0303162193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1549 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Representatives from Kyrgyzstan's nine parties and socio-political associations believe that by replacing the Cabinet of Ministers, the political situation in the republic will be destabilized. The statement adopted on Tuesday [2 March] cites that the rift in Kyrgyzstan's democratic movement was caused by the ultimatum demanded by leaders of the Erkin Kyrgyzstan and Asaba parties to replace the present government headed by Premier Tursunbek Chyngyshev. The document emphasizes that representatives of these parties inspired by "narrow political ambitions," demanded the resignation of the government and President Askar Akayev without any compromises.

The leader of Kyrgyzstan's democratic movement, Melis Aidarkulov, reconfirmed in his conversation with our Interfax correspondent that a rift in Kyrgyzstan's democratic forces occured over the past weekend in Bishkek. However, he believes that "there is no political crisis in the country." In Aidarkulov's words, the republic's political and public movements intend to further look for scientifically based ways to surmount the economic crisis and then propose such ways to the President.

Article Views Economic, Political Problems

PM0403110793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Mar 93 First Edition p 7

[Report by Vladimir Berezovskiy: "Will Kyrgyz Avalanche Break?"]

[Text] Tashkent—Prices have soared drastically in Kyrgyzstan for everything, even though the average wages remain the lowest in the CIS countries. President Askar Akayev has, it is true, eased the blow by reducing the price for bread, but he has not ventured to do more. Like many specialists, he realizes that the republic is balancing on the brink of an abyss: the volume of industrial produce has fallen by nearly a third, matters are no better in agriculture, plants and mines are coming to a standstill, and construction sites are dying away. Then there have been two earthquakes in succession, taking dozens of lives and destroying over 20,000 houses.

Scarcely had the Supreme Soviet session adopted the budget for this year when it was totally cancelled out by new prices for gas, oil, and electricity and it became clear finally that the republic simply had nothing to live on. Akayev and his team knew, of course, that the path to the market for the Republic, which in the times of the former USSR always "had to make do" with a subsidy which reached as much as 60 percent [of its revenue], would be steep, but even they probably did not fully calculate all factors of the transitional period.

Although bribery, for instance, originates in the totalitarian system, today it has flowered like the opium poppies in the Chuyskaya valley. S. Kurmankozhoyev, the recently dismissed general director of "Kyrgyznefteprodukt," having generated a cluster of subsidiary firms and commercial structures, sold almost all the gasoline illegally. Including the "humanitarian" fuel for earthquake victims living in tents. Over 100,000 tonnes of pig iron, steel, copper, aluminum, and zinc were resold abroad while their own plants are halting their conveyor belts. Russia gave the republic technical credit worth 30 billion rubles, but businessmen from the "Zvezda Azii" firm got their hands on it, deciding to acquire two Tu-154 aircraft with the 1.5 billion rubles "taken as a loan." Here the Kyrgyz aircraft have been spending a long night in the hangars: There is no money for fuel. Turning the financial roulette wheel, bankers are off-loading enormous masses of cash to overt speculators. State trade has been turned into a transshipment base, continuously supplying commercial stores with everything they need.

According to specialists' estimates, every seventh state ruble settles in the capacious wallets of corrupt officials. Any boss with the slightest self respect travels in a Volvo and the former akim (governor) of Dzhalal-Abad Oblast preferred a helicopter since he would hardly have been able to use a foreign automobile to travel to the festivities marking the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America together with his clan.

But what about the people? They see everything and understand very well that those who are squashed into city buses in the morning to get to their machine tools or open-hearth furnaces will have to bear the responsibility. The miners' settlement of Kyzyl-Kiya is already on strike. There is unrest at the former union enterprises. An emergency situation remains after the interethnic clashes in Osh and Uzgen.

In brief, the clusters of anger may ripen without waiting for the warm summer.

Akayev's political opponents are not averse to exploiting this complex situation. The thesis that the government is dominated by representatives of the north of the republic, where the president himself comes from, is being strenuously puffed up. The radicals are demanding that parliament be dissolved while Dzhumgalbek Omanbayev, the former "top man" in the Kyrgyz Communist Party has frankly stated that Akayev's team is doomed. To all appearances the president has accepted the challenge. At his suggestion parliament will meet in the very near future for an extraordinary session to adopt or reject emergency measures suggested by the government to get out of the economic chaos. And at the session the political struggle could perfectly well develop into open confrontation between the conservatives, eager for revenge, and the reformers, who have assumed the burden of responsibility.

The former aura of nationwide support around Akayev has dispelled although as before his experience of reforming, his flexible nationalities policy, and his high prestige in the commonwealth work in his favor. I think the president will hold out but then, and very soon, we shall see a different Akayev—tough and resolute, persistently getting his own way. Otherwise it will be simply impossible to hold back the avalanche.

Tajikistan

CIS Troops Arrive To Strengthen Border; Others Expected

LD0303135393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1022 GMT 3 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Dushanbe, 3 Mar—The first battalion of CIS peacekeeping forces, formed in Kyrgyzstan, has been brought into Ishkashimskiy Rayon of Tajikistan's Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast.

At a meeting with the inhabitants of Khorog, the administrative center of Gornyy Badakhshan, Major General Vitaliy Gritsan, commander of the Russian Border Troops Group in Tajikistan said, its tasks include strengthening the Tajik-Afghan border, violations of which have become more frequent recently. He also announced that in accordance with the accord reached in Minsk at the meeting of heads of member-states of the CIS, battalions will shortly be coming to Tajikistan from Russia and Kazakhstan to strengthen the border posts in the republic's Khatlon Oblast.

Commander Cited on Reinforcements

PM0403140393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Mar 93 p 3

[Anatoliy Ladin report under the "Events and Commentaries" rubric: "Russian Border Guards in Tajikistan Have at Last Been Reinforced"]

[Text] Dushanbe—This decision was reached at the Minsk meeting of heads of Commonwealth countries, but the promised battalions started arriving only a few days ago.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA wrote in detail about this problem in a report 27 February. In the complex situation which had developed in Tajikistan it was not easy for Russian border guards to counter the constant attempts by armed formations from contiguous Afghanistan to infiltrate the republic's territory.

In an exclusive interview with KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Major General Vitaliy Gritsan, commander of the group of border troops in Tajikistan, reported that the situation on the border remains complex, and this necessitates measures to strengthen it. The promised assistance for the Russian border guards has arrived. Some 100 servicemen from Uzbekistan have begun performing their duties. A battalion of 500 men with infantry arms has arrived from Kyrgyzstan. A similar subunit is expected to come from Kazakhstan, and one from Russia in mid-March.

At the same time, so Maj. Gen. Gritsan said, young reinforcements have started arriving in Tajikistan from Russian border districts, where servicemen have undergone appropriate training for service on the border. Citizens of Tajikistan are also being drafted into the republic's border troops.

Two Russian Ministry Employees Killed in Tursunzade

OW0303165593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1642 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to detailed reports an Interfax correspondent received from informed sources, two Russian Security Ministry employees were killed Monday [1 March] in the Tajik city of Tursunzade (60 km west of Dushanbe). Another Security Ministry employee was seriously wounded in the incident. The circumstances of the employees' deaths are still being investigated.

According to the information, in addition to the Security Ministry employees, several other persons were also wounded in the incident in Tursunzade.

'Warring Factions' Begin Negotiations

LD0403091593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0818 GMT 4 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Krasulin]

[Text] Moscow March 4 TASS—Peace has been reigning in Tajikistan for a week already, no shooting and no hostilities have been reported in a week, Foreign Minister Rashid Alimov told ITAR-TASS by telephone today. Alimov said the warring factions have begun negotiations.

A big delegation from the Gorno-Badakhshan region led by the deputy chairman of the regional council paid a two-day visit to Dushanbe at the invitation of the parliament chairman. Alimov stressed that the leadership of the republic was not interested in the forcible disarmament of the anti-government formations and intended to pass this complex problem to the regional leadership for solution. The delegation returned to the Gorno-Badakhshan region on Wednesday [3 March].

The minister told ITAR-TASS measures are being taken to expedite the return of refugees to their homes. A consular point is being prepared for opening on the border with Afghanistan. Preparations are being conducted in conjunction with the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. Checkpoints have been set up near the border where the refugees will undergo medical checkups and get medical aid before returning home.

According to the Economics Ministry of Tajikistan, the damages from hostilities have exceeded 300 million dollars.

Supreme Soviet Presidium Appeals to Gorno-Badakhshan Oblast

LD0403151493 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 0400 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Yesterday, the Supreme Soviet Presidium of the Republic of Tajikistan adopted an appeal to the leadership and population of the Gorno-Badakhshan autonomous oblast. The appeal notes that following the 16th session of the Supreme Soviet the prerequisites had emerged in the republic for political stability, an end to fratricidal war, the establishment of peace and a transition to creative work. But for this to be successful it is essential for the population of all regions of the republic to unite around the legitimate government, which is taking every measure to stabilize the situation in Tajikistan.

How should this unity find expression? It is primarily necessary to support the decree of the Supreme Soviet Presidium on confiscating illegally held weapons and strengthening the external border, so as to end the flow of weapons and ammunition from over the border, which will ensure conditions for creative work.

The Gorno-Badakhshan autonomous oblast is an integral part of Tajikistan, and the fate of its inhabitants is not a matter of indifference to the government. The Council of Ministers is seeking to find all resources for extending emergency aid, which has already reached the region on several occasions. Spring is near and field work is approaching. The government is taking measures to supply the farms of the region with fuel, machinery and spare parts. Only unity and joint creative work will make it possible to overcome the economic crisis and embark on the road of further developing every region and the republic as a whole.

Government Forces Put on Alert in Dushanbe

LD0403131293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1223 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Dushanbe March 4 TASS—Official sources continue to assure residents of Tajikistan that rumours about a breakthrough of opposition groups into the city planned for March 5 are absurd.

Meanwhile, government forces were put on high alert. Checkpoints on the approaches to the city were reinforced. Armoured vehicles were posted to guard a complex of government buildings and several important strategic facilities. All kinds of motor vehicles are inspected.

Tajik Interior Minister Yakub Salimov told ITAR-TASS by telephone that "these moves are only additional precautionary measures taken by government forces to head off even an attempt to stage armed provocations by the opposition." He assured that the residents of Dushanbe "should not have any doubts regarding the government forces' capability to ensure the security of the city's population."

On the socio-political situation in the Ramit ravine, Salimov emphasised that it is under government troops' full control. He described actions by the republic's national Army to neutralise and disarm militants in the Garm group of districts as also successful. Lawful government structures are being restored in settlements which are being liberated from anti-government forces. Humanitarian aid is sent there.

Russian Security Spokesman on Role of Border Troops

OW0303171193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1643 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian border troops stationed in Tajikistan plan to adopt "decisive measures" for guarding the republic's borders, and any encroachment from a third country will be fought off "in the most severe manner." Andrey Chernyenko, head of the Russian Security Ministry's Center for Social Relations, stated this in an interview with INTERFAX, discussing the conclusions of the trip to Tajikistan made last week by Security Minister Viktor Barannikov, Commander of Russian border troops Vladimir Shlyakhtin, and head of Security Ministry counterintelligence Aleksey Malyukov.

Chernyenko said that Russian border guards in Tajikistan are effectively guarding not only Russia's borders, but the borders of other CIS states as well.

He said the Security Ministry leaders went to Tajikistan to determine the military capabilities of the group of border troops in Tajikistan and find out how much the situation in the republic threatens stability in that region.

During the visit they developed preemptive strike plans with the aim of keeping Russian border troops out of Tajikistan's domestic conflicts. "This is completely ruled out; we cannot play their hand in the political game," said Chernyenko. He noted, however, that at the negotiations conducted by Barannikov's delegation, both Russia and Tajikistan confirmed that the presence of Russian troops in the region guaranteed stability.

Regarding the domestic political situation in Tajikistan, Chernyenko said he thought the new Tajik leadership headed by Imamali Rakhmonov "has fairly serious control of the situation in the capital and in the south of the republic."

Deputy Interior Minister Grants Interview

PM0103102993 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 26 Feb 93 p 1

[Interview with Militia Colonel Gennadiy Blinov, Tajikistan deputy minister of internal affairs, by correspondent U. Babakhanov in Dushanbe; date of interview not stated: "They Even Have Their Assault Rifles Painted White"—first two paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] Dushanbe—The birthday of the Tajik Armed Forces was celebrated on Dushanbe's main square—the new draftees took the oath, the combat vehicles drove past, the band played. But meanwhile fighting was continuing and blood was being shed in the republic's Eastern regions. National television reported that the government troops had finally gained control over the Ramit Gorge, 50 km from Dushanbe, and the Garm group of rayons where the main forces of the antigovernment groupings were concentrated.

I asked Militia Colonel Gennadiy Blinov, Tajikistan deputy internal affairs minister, to comment on the events taking place in this zone.

[Blinov] The joint forces of the republic's Ministry of Internal Affairs [MVD], National Security Ministry, and Defense Ministry in conjunction with subunits of the People's Front have purged the Eastern regions of armed bandit formations which had refused to fulfill the government edict on the surrender of weapons. Garm, Komsomolabad, Tavil-Dara, Dzhirgatal, and the Ramit Gorge were seized as a result of the operation. The first humanitarian freight from Dushanbe—about 100 tonnes of food—was immediately dispatched to these regions.

[Babakhanov] What are the casualty figures?

[Blinov] So far there are no figures for enemy losses. On our side, according to preliminary figures, 118 people died.

[Babakhanov] And among the civilian inhabitants, Gennadiy Vasilyevich?

[Blinov] So far it is hard to say but I think the losses among the civilian population are minimal. Although the gunmen of the Islamic opposition have set up their weapon emplacements in purely civilian sites—in Garm, for instance, in a school, in the basements of apartment blocks, and in administrative buildings. That is why ordinary people have, unfortunately, also suffered. Yesterday we received information that about 500 people people—women, old men, and children—tried to get out of the fighting zone and moved across the mountains from the Ramit Gorge toward Kofarnikhon. That is very dangerous—there is snow in the mountains and it is cold. So we raised the entire militia of the rayon and set off for the mountains to save people.

[Babakhanov] Gennadiy Vasilyevich, was it impossible to avoid the bloodshed, after all the number of victims of the Tajik-Tajik war already runs into tens of thousands?

[Blinov] We carried out no large-scale military operations for a month. We held negotiations with the gunmen and tried to persuade them to lay down their weapons. But new people not responsible for their predecessors' commitments would appear at the negotiations each time. And they used the respites merely to regroup their forces. So that we did not manage to reach a proper agreement. In general it must be said that our opponents were very well prepared. According to our figures back in June and July the opposition members began to prepare their positions in the mountains—they dug reinforcements, brought in provisions, ammunition, weapons, and camouflage smocks. Even their assault rifles were painted white—to match the snow. And they offered very powerful resistance. Our military special troops were defeated by the skill and precision of their operations—their fire system and placement of strongholds were according to all the rules of military science. There are many Afghan mojahedin among the gunmen.

[Babakhanov] Were military aircraft used during the operation?

[Blinov] Yes, combat helicopters were used for fire support and to land an assault party.

[Babakhanov] What is the situation as of today?

[Blinov] Small groups of gunmen have gone further into the mountains and work is now under way to apprehend or destroy them if they offer resistance. Tadzhikabad was in the opposition's hands for a long time but recently we took it too. Today the government troops have completely blocked the Kalai-kumb salient to rule out the supply of weapons and ammunition from Afghanistan to the rebels. Gornyy Badakhshan presents no military threat to the republic. The armed grouping consisting of 400 gunmen enjoys no support among the oblast's population and is prepared to lay down its weapons in exchange for a guarantee of safety. In the Pamir living conditions are very harsh and inhumane—there is an acute shortage of food and medical supplies. The population centers are overcrowded with refugees from Dushanbe and Kurgan-Tyube. The Tajikistan leadership is prepared to give as much aid as possible to autonomous Badakhshan.

[Babakhanov] Gennadiy Vasilyevich, today armed formations of the People's Front are taking part in all the government's military actions alongside the regular troops. Do problems not arise with them?

[Blinov] Not with most of them. They are detachments with an organizational system, with their own system of discipline and management. And we work in close contact with them. Of course, there are opportunists and looters among them. They are a separate case. I predict that by the start of the fall complete stabilization should ensue in Tajikistan. By that time subunits of the MVD and the Defense Ministry will be fully staffed and the People's Front will be disbanded as having fulfilled its mission. [Blinov ends]

...I want to believe that Colonel Blinov's optimism has a real basis. But meanwhile a government troops headquarters under the leadership of Major General M. Mamadzhnov has been created in Garm. At the republic's National Security Committee our correspondent was told during fighting in the Eastern regions of Tajikistan in recent days three officers have died and a further 12 have been wounded. Yesterday 17 ambulances were sent from Dushanbe to the regions of the fighting—the war continues...

Russian Community Leader Says Situation 'Humiliating'

OW0103145393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1404 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Vladimir Yushin, the head of the Russian community in Tajikistan, believes that the Russian and Russian-speaking community of the republic is turning into "the industrial component of the Tajik nation." In an interview with Interfax, he called such a situation humiliating, and said that the community was insisting on representation in the highest body of executive authority so that it could resolve the problem. Yushin considers it possible that another house, the Council of Nationalities, could be included in the Supreme Council of Tajikistan.

He believes that political instability and the civil war are not the only reasons for the mass-exodus of the Russian-speaking population from the republic. The introduction of the Tajik tongue as the only state language, he said, also exerted an influence on the mood of the Russians there.

Without a resolution of the questions of social and political protection, said Yushin, the prospects for the preservation of a large Russian community in Tajikistan are "rather hazy," even if there is a complete stabilization of the situation in the republic.

According to data from the Migratsia society, which assists those wishing to leave Tajikistan, about 200,000 Russians have left the republic.

Turkmenistan

Government Explains Absence From Surgut Oil Conference

OW0303181093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1646 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Turkmenistan "will gain no tangible benefits" from participating in an intergovernmental oil and gas council, was the comment Vice-Premier Nazar Suyunov made on the position of his country which did not attend the recent Surgut meeting.

In an Interfax interview on Wednesday [3 March] he expressed his opinion that the Council was set up "as a hoax." Said Suyunov, "Again all the states will invest in Tyumen oil fields without guarantees that they will have fuels from there."

The vice-premier's thought that, "no decisions of any [CIS] council are carried through." Turkmenistan had contributed much to Tyumen and the Baikal-Amur Railroad but has received nothing in return.

Suyunov said that Turkmenistan will follow its own model of developing the oil and gas industry. Whenever necessary, his country will seek aid from a specific country. "Our policy is that all matters must be settled on a bilateral basis," he concluded.

Government Supports Russia in Gas Dispute With Ukraine

OW0303180793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1646 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Turkmen gas producers understand and back the Russian stand in the conflict with Ukraine over gas supplies. Russia follows in the footsteps of Turkmenistan which pressed in 1992 for higher prices of gas it produced. This is the essence of what Bulat Ganiyev, deputy chairman of the state-owned Turkmengaz (natural gas production and delivery) corporation.

In 1992 Turkmenistan had suspended for about four months the delivery of its gas to Ukraine because of disagreements over the price. In February 1993 Russia threatened suspension of gas deliveries to Ukraine for the same reasons and also because Ukrainian customers owed Gazprom, the main producer of natural gas in Russia, 165 billion rubles.

"Russia's position is justified because the customer's unwillingness to pay for the purchases he made is inconsistent with the generally accepted standards of relationships between states. The Russian gas producers and people counted on receiving the proceeds," he emphasized. Ganiyev also said that if needed, Turkmenistan can step up gas delivery to Ukraine from 28.4 to 30 billion cubic meters at 60 percent of the world price.

Uzbekistan

Foreign Economic Relation Enterprises Re-Registered

LD0303182593 Tashkent UZBEKISTAN APN in Russian 1204 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] The re-registration of all enterprises which are involved in foreign economic relations, regardless of their form of ownership, has started in Uzbekistan. As the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations explained, this is connected with the fact that enterprises need to have documents and stamps which reflect the reality of an independent state—the coat of arms, the correct names, and so on. In particular, the word "soviet", which has been preserved in the names of many joint ventures, must be replaced by Uzbek. The re-registration will continue until June.

Armenia

Ter-Petrosyan Against Parliamentary Form of Government

OW0303160093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1547 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Under the present circumstances, adopting a new constitution is more a political than a legal task," President Levon Ter-Petrosyan said on Tuesday [2 March] at a meeting of the Constitutional Commission.

In his opinion, the main problem is what procedure should be chosen for this, namely whether the constitution should be passed by parliament or a constituent assembly, or whether a referendum should be called on it. Ter-Petrosyan did not express support for any of the three procedures, merely saying that parliament could be changed into a constituent assembly, especially since the adoption of the constitution would have to be followed by a new parliamentary election anyway.

Nor did he exclude the possibility of a "mixed" procedure being used, namely parliament, acting as a constituent assembly, would approve the Constitutional Commission's draft, which would then be put to a vote in a referendum.

Another key problem, the President said, was whether the presidential or the parliamentary form of government should be chosen. "The parliamentary form," he said, "was practiced in Armenia for seventy years, and is mainly effective in a one-party state. It can work under a multiparty system too if such a system is well developed, which is not the case in Armenia." Under the present circumstances, it "would pose a continuous threat to political stability," he said.

Spokesman Criticizes Opposition Maneuvers

OW0303160493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1547 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Aram Abrahamyan, President Levon Ter-Petrosyan's press spokesman, has told Interfax that the opposition has once again attempted to take advantage of popular discontent with falling living standards for political ends. Abrahamyan was commenting on the intention of oppositional leaders to stage a demonstration in Yerevan on March 4. He said that fortunately citizens were being moved at such actions by the shortcomings of their daily lives rather than by political demands made by the government's opponents. Abrahamyan remarked that while demonstrations were an integral and normal attribute of a democratic law-based state they were not a method for deciding such issues as the form and procedure for adopting constitutions.

The opposition's request for the constitution to be adopted by the constituent assembly instead of by parliament could be granted or rejected only by the current parliament, the spokesman stressed. Only parliament itself had the right to form the constituent assembly, he continued. Deputies from the National Self-Determination Association and their allies from other fractions had the opportunity to defend their proposals within the framework of civilized parliamentary debate, he said.

Abrahamyan said that the Armenian leadership understood the need to adopt the new constitution as soon as possible and that it was certain that this could be done by the current parliament without the need for the constituEnt assembly.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: The opposition a few days ago accused the government of spending the $56 Mn [million] allocated by the former Soviet government for reconstruction work in the zone affected by the earthquake in December, 1988, in an "incomprehensible manner." Gagik Oganesyan, one of the leaders of the Dashnaktsutyun opposition party, told a press conference Tuesday [2 March] that the opposition intended to force a full and impartial enquiry into this issue.

Control of Sarsang Dam Claimed Despite 'Propaganda'

NC0303210493 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1630 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] KARABAKH NEWS AGENCY cites Nagorno-Karabakh self-defense headquarters reports that military operations are continuing along the battle front in Mardakertskiy Rayon in northern Nagorno-Karabakh. The front bypasses the liberated villages of Husapad, Metsshen, and Magavuz.

Contrary to the false claims of Azerbaijani propaganda, the Nagorno-Karabakh self-defense forces are in full control of Sarsang reservoir and all the surrounding liberated Armenian settlements.

The situation around the Lachin humanitarian corridor was relatively calm by noon today.

The Armenian Defense Ministry press service reported that the Azerbaijani National Army units used various types of weapons to open fire on the border villages in Tavushskiy Rayon from their military bases in Tauzskiy Rayon on 2 March. There are no reports on the consequences of the shelling. The Armenian border guards were forced to return fire in an attempt to suppress the enemy's gun emplacements.

A relative calm prevailed on the rest of Armenian-Azerbaijani border.

Prime Minister Offers Protection of Pipeline in Georgia

NC0303204293 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1630 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] Armenian Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan returned yesterday from an intergovernmental meeting of the CIS countries in Surgut that was held on 1 and 2 March at the initiative of the Russian Government.

A number of documents were prepared at the end of the discussions. An agreement was signed to set up an intergovernmental council to coordinate policy on the extraction, transportation, processing, and use of oil and gas. The meeting also established the standing bylaws of the council.

A separate agreement was signed between the Armenian and Russian Governments to regulate the development of the oil and gas complex.

During his stay in Surgut, Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan held meetings with a number of the delegations. He discussed mutual bank account settlements with Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma. He also discussed gas supplies, importing [Russian] fuel via Iran, an improvement in cargo flights, and [words indistinct] of bank accounts with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Georgiy Khizha.

The talks between the Armenian and Georgian prime ministers centered around similar acute problems. The Armenian prime minister brought up the idea of Armenian protection of the gas pipeline and railway on Georgian territory.

Karabakh Defense Committee Opens Mission in Yerevan

NC0303213793 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1630 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] A mission of the Defense Committee of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] has been opened in Yerevan. Albert Gazaryan has been appointed the NKR Defense Committee's representative in Armenia.

Ter-Petrosyan To Visit France, Sign Bilateral Accords

OW0103182393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1702 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Interfax has learned this from the Armenian president's press service that President Levon Ter-Petrosyan will arrive in France on an official visit on March 4-5.

In Paris, Levon Ter-Petrosyan and Francois Mitterand are expected to sign an agreement on the principles of French-Armenian bilateral relations.

Azerbaijan

Assembly Decides on Amnesty for Some Convicts

LD0303165393 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 0300 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Excerpts] A regular session of the National Assembly was held yesterday. The agenda included a report by Isa Kamberov on the creation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Parliament, discussions on questions of changes in the code of law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on economic [word indistinct], rules of the implementation of the law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on amnesty to be granted on the occasion of the 74th anniversary of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan, and confirmation of the rules and regulations on the national anthem of the Republic of Azerbaijan. [passage omitted]

Later the question of the execution of the decision of the National Assembly dated 15 July 1992, on implementation of the law on giving amnesty on the occasion of the 74th anniversary of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan, was discussed. The assembly adopted a decision on extending until 28 March the effective period of the law determined by the 15 July 1992 decision on granting amnesty on the anniversary to people who were convicted by military tribunals for crimes committed in the jurisdiction of the courts of the Republic of Azerbaijan as well as to those who were convicted by courts of the former USSR for crimes they had committed in the territory of Azerbaijan, or were convicted by other courts in the territory of the former Union and are serving their sentence outside the republic. The Cabinet of Ministers should be instructed to secure the return of prisoners from the Belarus and Ukraine Republics. The National Assembly should prepare an appeal to the Supreme Soviets of these republics. [passage omitted]

Akhmedov, Chernomyrdin Discuss CIS Participation

NC0403130893 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 0958 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Baku, 04.03.93 (ASSA-IRADA)—If Azerbaijan enjoys the normative acts of the CIS which free the goods supplied from the customs, as well as some other privileges granted to the CIS member-countries by Russia, it will cause discontent among the other republics since the CIS becomes useless, said Russian Premier Chernomyrdin in his conversation with the First Deputy Premier of Azerbaijan Vakhid Akhmedov. Nevertheless, the draft statement on this issue was thoroughly discussed at the economic negotiations between Russia and Azerbaijan in late February, ASSA-IRADA was told at the republican mission in Moscow. V. Chernomyrdin expressed his regret that Azerbaijan was not a CIS member. In reply to him V. Akhmedov said that this issue could be considered only after the settlement of the Karabakh conflict because of the complicated domestic and foreign situation connected, first of all, with the war.

Clashes in Fizulinskiy, Agderinskiy Rayons

NC0303210793 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1900 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry's Analytical Information Center has reported that the Azerbaijan Armed Forces silenced the intensive enemy fire in the strategically important Melikdag area in Fizulinskiy Rayon during the first half of the day.

The center also said three children were killed when Armenian military units fired on [placename indistinct] in Tauzskiy Rayon last night.

Fighting is taking place for the liberation of the towns which have been occupied by the Armenian expeditionary corps units in Agderinskiy Rayon.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Links Country's, Russia's 'Disintegration'

LD0403114993 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 0028 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] On 2 March, Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the State Council and head of state, received journalists from a number of Moscow newspapers and magazines. "The United Nations and other international organizations, and also Russian President Boris Yeltsin, have on several occasions spoken in favor of preserving the territorial integrity of Georgia," Eduard Shevardnadze stated at the meeting. "The beginning of the disintegration of Georgia will become the beginning of the disintegration of Russia, because an unstable Georgia will stimulate the most negative processes in the northern Caucasus. And I therefore do not understand the standpoint of certain Russian politicians and military men who are fostering the development of these tendencies."

Concerning the situation in Abkhazia, Eduard Shevardnadze did not rule out the possibility of an attack on Sukhumi by Abkhaz and northern Caucasian military units. He said that the Georgian Government could embark on a general mobilization only in the most extreme case. It will be forced to do this if the arrival of mercenaries on a mass scale in Gudauta Rayon continues.

Shevardnadze Discusses Conflict on Abkhazia Visit

Receives Letter From Russian Cossacks

LD0303184393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1739 GMT 3 Mar 93

[By GEORGIAN INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Sukhumi March 3 TASS—Georgia has reinforced its troops in Abkhazia in order to protect the city of Sukhumi from a possible Abkhazian assault, according to Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze who arrived in the Abkhazian capital on Wednesday [3 March].

Speaking on local television he denied rumours that the governmental forces are going to cede the city to Abkhazians. Shevardnadze also expressed hope that relations with Russia will become normal in the final run and said the fourth round of bilateral talks will begin next week. "I hope it will be successful," he added.

Cossacks from the southern regions of Russia assured Shevardnadze on Wednesday they will not send their units to Abkhazia. In a letter to the Georgian leader made public here today they said they had adopted "a definite and firm decision: Cossacks will not be sent to participate in the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict."

"We stand and will stand for a peaceful solution of the conflict and friendly relations with Georgia," the Cossacks said, adding they had never sent their units to the conflict zone and discouraged commanders from acting upon their own initiative.

Says Additional Troops Present

LD0303232693 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2120 GMT 3 Mar 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Shevardnadze, head of the Parliament of Georgia, arrived in Sukhumi today. In an interview with the local television station, Shevardnadze stated that additional troop units have been transferred to Abkhazia to make the town safe from a possible storming.

It is interesting that at the same time, Ioseliani, deputy chairman of the Council of National Security, spoke on Tbilisi television. He said that today voices of panic are resounding again, saying that the Abkhazian forces are preparing to storm Sukhumi. But in actual fact there are no grounds for panic.

That was a report from the POSTFAKTUM agency.

Meets Abkhazia's Nadareishvili

AU0403095293 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0450 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Summary From Poor Reception] "Yesterday, Batoni [Georgian polite form of address] Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian Parliament-head of state, traveled to Sukhumi. Before departing from Tbilisi airport, in a meeting with journalists, he stated that the main reason for his trip was to check on the security of Georgian forces in Abkhazia" and ascertain "on the spot" the real "reasons for Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev's arrival in Gudauta that had been called an 'inspection' visit by the Russian news media." He said he would be looking "in addition," for "ways of resolving" the conflict.

"From Sukhumi airport, he traveled to the Abkhaz Council of Ministers where he met Tamaz Nadareishvili, chairman of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia, and other leaders. During their meeting, he was acquainted with the situation that had taken shape in Sukhumi and in Abkhazia." "Batoni Eduard Shevardnadze also met representatives of the 23d brigade and their leader Batoni (?Jemal Adamia). He gave an interview to Abkhaz TV."

"As regards the actions of the opposing forces, we have been informed that it is currently quiet in Sukhumi."

Denies Resignation, Wants Wider Martial Law

OW0403113593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1101 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze has declared that he will not resign "no matter how badly certain forces in the country would want that." Speaking at a Sukhumi meeting with members of the Abkhaz government controlled by Tbilisi and the Georgian military he said rumors are circulated about the surrender of Sukhumi to make him resign.

He said the rumors are meant to provoke panic and an exodus from the town which can destabilize the situation in Georgia as a whole. "The provocateurs will be strictly punished," Shevardnadze stressed, "martial law requires harsh measures." He said Georgian armed forces have every possibility to defend Sukhumi. He also said he will urge parliament to introduce martial law in Gal and Gulripsha regions of Abkhazia.

On the recent visit of the Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev to Abkhazia Shevardnadze said that the defense minister of one of the biggest countries in the world has more things to do than inspect one battalion in Gudauta. This means that the Russian leadership supports extremists and separatists, he stressed. In its relations with former Soviet republics Russia is approaching the role it used to play with regard to Europe. Still Shevardnadze declared the necessity of continuing talks with Russia and signing a bilateral agreement.

He said he would remain in Sukhumi as long as it is necessary.

Ardzinba Urges Release of Deputy Prime Minister

LD0303203793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1850 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] Moscow March 3 TASS—Abkhazian parliamentary Chairman Vladislav Ardzinba urged the Georgian leadership to immediately release Abkhazian Vice-Prime Minister Zurab Labakhua who has been held in Georgian captivity since February 18.

Labakhua, who was "fulfilling a nobel humanitarian mission to save starving civilians in the besieged city of Tkuachala," is the only one of those involved in the incident with the downed Russian helicopter who has not been returned to Abkhazia yet.

After Labakhua staged a hunger strike in protest against his captivity in an investigation prison, the police has placed him under home arrest. Labakhua "worked as deputy head of the Georgian Government in Tbilisi and once was close to (Georgian leader Eduard) Shevardnadze," the appeal said.

Ardzinba called the Georgian leadership's attention to Labakhua's poor health—he is suffering from an advanced stage of diabetes—and called for "allowing him to travel to Moscow for medical assistance in order to avoid unrectifiable consequences."

Agreement Reached With Russia To Obtain Oil

OW0303172393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1644 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia and Georgia have reached an agreement on mutual supplies of goods to a sum of 18 Bn [billion] rubles. Georgia will, in particular, receive 300,000 tons of oil. As Georgian Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua told reporters in Tbilisi on Wednesday [3 March], the agreement was signed during the recent meeting of prime ministers from former Soviet republics in Surgut. Commodities supplied under the agreement would not be subject to customs control, he said.

Sigua said it had also been agreed in Surgut that Georgian personnel would take part in the production of oil part of which would be sent to Georgia.

Assessing the results of the Surgut meeting as "very good," Sigua said Georgia's membership in the intergovernmental oil and gas council would enable it to receive oil and gas even if it had no direct relevant agreement with Russia.

Liberation Movement Conference Rallies Opposition

AU0303190693 Tbilisi 7 DGHE in Georgian 25 Feb 93 p 1, 3

[Tea Koiava article: "21 February: 'The Final Throes' or a New Wave"]

[Text] **On 21 February, the second extraordinary conference of the National Liberation Movement [NLM] was held in the large Philharmonic Concert Hall in Tbilisi on the initiative of the National Independence Party [NIP].**

This was not, as many were saying, "the final throes," "the gathering of aggrieved politicians," or "the nostalgia for rallies," but the beginning of a new wave of the NLM. The representatives of all political parties and organizations and societies (with the exception of the National-Democratic Party) attended the conference.

The conference was opened by Batoni Tornike Pipia, member of the NIP, who thanked those present for their attendance, no matter what side of the barricades they were standing on yesterday.

Batoni Irakli Tsereteli [leader of the NIP] began his speech with an assessment of events in Abkhazia. In particular, he said that this problem would remain unresolved until Russian-Georgian relations were regulated as the so-called South Ossetian problem has convinced us that Georgia is independent only de jure; in reality, however, it is clearly under the influence of Russia. One of the necessary conditions for acquiring independence is the complete deoccupation of Georgia.

In talking about the 1921 Constitution, Batoni Tsereteli said that it was necessary to bring this constitution into force and hold universal legal elections on its basis, particularly since a large part of the Georgian population did not participate in the last elections.

According to Batoni Tsereteli, one of the reasons for holding elections was the protection of human rights since "the current authorities who came to power with pretensions of democracy have been unable to guarantee the protection of human rights."

Then, Batoni Tsereteli touched upon the current confrontation in Georgia that had lately become more acute. He said that the Georgian nation was split into two parts and "today's conference is that force that is uniting it from within."

Batoni Mikhail Kurdiani delivered an emotional speech that focused entirely on the 1921 Constitution. He said that every government after 1921 had been illegal. He also recalled that at an extended session of the National Congress on 21 February last year, Batonebi Kitovani and Ioseliani [leaders of the Military Council at the time] signed a document on the supremacy of the 1921 Constitution but, added Batoni Mikhail Kurdiani, unfortunately, nothing changed during the last year.

Batoni Gogbaidze, a member of the Society of Ilia the Righteous, said that the policy of the Georgian Government did not correspond to the aims of the NLM. In his opinion, when it was a question of a treaty with Russia, they were not opposed to this; a treaty could be concluded with a neighboring country—Iran, for example—but one could not view Russia and Iran on the same plane. Signing a treaty with Russia at this stage would mean capitulation.

Batoni Temur Zhorzholiani, leader of the Monarchist Party, stated that the aim of his party was to create a strong unitary state; regarding the [1921] Constitution, in his opinion, it had many shortcomings and, at the same time, was opposed to the monarchy. However, in spite of this, the 1921 Constitution nevertheless had to be restored.

In his speech, Batoni Vazha Adamia [leader of the All-Georgian Merab Kostava Society] assessed the conference as an event that united the nation. In the opinion of Batoni Gogi Khoshtaria [minister of foreign affairs under Gamsakhurdia], in spite of the fact that new authorities had come to power, no progress had been visible. He believed that the elections of 11 October [1992] had been undemocratic and illegal, which was confirmed by resounding applause in the hall.

Batoni Khoshtaria pointed out that human rights were being abused in Georgia and, as proof, mentioned the brutal beating of Batoni Gedevan Gelbakhiani [involved in the assassination attempt on Jaba Ioseliani, the then deputy chairman of the State Council, on 13 June 1992] in prison, the motive for which had been to extract money from him, yet no one had been made answerable for this.

Batoni Beslan Kotikov, the representative from Ingushetia, stated that the fate of the Caucasus was decided in Georgia; unfortunately, Georgia, which many countries in the Caucasus looked upon as being in the forefront, had been unable to justify their hopes.

While Batoni Nodar Natadze [chairman of the Popular Front] was delivering his speech, a provocative explosion occured that initially caused panic and then indignation. It is not yet known who planted the explosive device and what the motive had been.

Batoni Temur Mdinaradze spoke about the sorrowful economic situation that had take shape in the country. He said that parliament had no plan whatsoever for bringing the country out of the crisis. He forecast that inflation would increase by a factor of five and that salvation only lay in the implemenation of the 1921 Constitution.

The conference adopted resolutions on the protection of human rights and the deoccupation of Georgia. A resolution was read on the supremacy of the 1921 Constitution and bringing it into force. A resolution on a moratorium on rallies, demonstrations, and peaceful marches was also adopted.

Then Batoni Irakli Tsereteli answered questions from the hall. He said that the last elections had been illegal, but that his party had participated in them to neutralize those forces that had entered parliament and "in whose steps Batoni Goguadze [parliamentary speaker] was following [daakvalianebs]." He stated that if what happened in Gagra was repeated in Sukhumi, the government had to resign.